

U.S.-Nicaragua tension mounts

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan said Wednesday that Nicaraguan troops had attacked contra rebel positions in neighbouring Honduras, and his spokesman said the United States was considering "everything... short of invasion" in response. The Honduran ambassador to the United States said there had been an invasion by thousands of Sandinista troops. Nicaragua said its troops were battling contra rebels along the northern border with Honduras but denied the U.S. charges. "We have never invaded Honduras," chief army spokeswoman Major Rosa Pasos told Reuters in Managua. "The information coming from Washington is totally false," she said. Reagan, asked whether he was considering any use of U.S. military forces, replied, "We've been in consultation with the Honduran government, but I can't comment on anything." He said that "the information we have is that Nicaragua has crossed the border into Honduras. Obviously we're concerned." Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Reagan, his national security adviser, the secretary of state and others "have conferred at length in the last 24 hours concerning the Nicaraguan invasion of Honduran territory."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

GCC pledges increased efforts to end war

RIYADH (R) — Gulf Arab foreign ministers pledged Wednesday to intensify their efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war which they said had entered a dangerous new phase. The pledge came in a statement at the end of a two-day meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), held at the ferocious "war of cities" between Tehran and Baghdad continued well into its third week (See story below). "The council discussed developments in the Iran-Iraq war and the dangerous escalation that developed in the outbreak of the war of the cities between the two sides," the statement said. The GCC would "continue intensifying contacts on the international level and especially with the permanent members of the Security Council to ensure the implementation of the resolution," the statement said. The foreign ministers reviewed contacts with Security Council members by the group's current chairman, Saudi Arabia, seeking ways to implement the ceasefire resolution. Some Security Council members, notably the United States, are pressing for a follow-up resolution imposing an arms embargo against Iran.

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Benjedid receives King's message

ALGIERS (Petra) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid Wednesday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein on Jordan's view towards the latest political developments in the Arab region and the current Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The message was delivered to the Algerian president by Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh. Abu Odeh, speaking to reporters after the meeting, said the message stemmed from the King's keenness on continued coordination and consultation with Arab leaders to strengthen joint Arab action and to arrive at a unified Arab stand.

Rockets hit Galilee

TEL AVIV (R) — Several Katyusha rockets fired from southern Lebanon slammed into an Israeli settlement in Galilee early Wednesday, causing minor damage but no casualties, an army spokesman said. The 122-mm rockets, estimated to have a range of about 20 kilometres, shattered windows, damaged citrus trees and wrecked a banana shed at the settlement, residents said.

Tlas visits Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas Wednesday congratulated officers of the Syrian army contingent that has been policing west Beirut for more than a year. Syrian sources said, Tlas arrived on a private plane at Beirut's international airport and met with commanders of the 7,500-strong Syrian army contingent in west Beirut before touring its positions in the city. It is rare for Tlas to enter Beirut via the airport. He usually travels overland from Damascus.

2 Gemayel loyalists shot and killed

BEIRUT (R) — Two Lebanese Christians loyal to President Amin Gemayel were killed in a hail of automatic weapons fire in east Beirut Wednesday, security sources said. They said gunmen in a speeding car opened fire at their vehicle in the Zouk area, killing the two instantly. The sources said the victims were Joseph Aqili, a former official of the Lebanese Forces militia who switched loyalties to Gemayel, and his bodyguard.

Violence sweeps Panama after 'coup' crushed

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panama's strongman was reported to have crushed a military coup Wednesday but new anti-government protests erupted, paralysing the business district and blocking the entrance to a U.S. air force base. Shots were fired early in the morning inside the military headquarters of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, witnesses said, amid reports that he had put down a rebellion by colonels and majors. Barricades of burning garbage blocked nearly every intersection in the main downtown district with hundreds of people roaming the streets. Electricity workers were on strike and most buildings were in darkness (see page 8). Witnesses outside the military command building said gunfire broke out early morning and lasted about 15 minutes. The witnesses said they saw at least one ambulance leave following the shooting.

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Anti-revolt curbs backfire on Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel imposed new restrictions Wednesday to curb the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, but stone-throwing demonstrators took to the streets in such large numbers that troops opened fire, an elderly man died and at least 26 protesters were wounded.

Doctors in a Jerusalem hospital had to remove an eye from a three-year-old girl hit by a rubber bullet. Israeli military authorities severed international telephone links with the West Bank and Gaza in a bid to stop contact between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) abroad and local activists. In many towns in the occupied territories Palestinian shopkeepers and public transport workers heeded a call by the United Leadership of the Uprising to stay at home for a second successive day in protest against Israeli rule.

Awad detained
Officials said an Arab-American who advocates non-violent resistance to Israel's occupation was detained Wednesday and may be expelled, officials said. Mubarak Awad, 44, was being held at a city police station, and a police spokesman said he was being investigated for taking part in an "illegal gathering" on the main road between Jerusalem and Nablus.

Iran-Iraq hammering continues; Security Council demands halt

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran said it fired five missiles into Baghdad Wednesday and Iraq said it shot seven into Tehran. Iran said 52 civilians were killed in Tehran and in Iraqi warplane raids on other cities. Iran claimed its troops pushed into northeastern Iraq overnight and seized the border town of Khurmali, killing or wounding 1,150 Iraqi troops. At the United Nations, the Security Council demanded that Iran and Iraq immediately halt their "war of the cities" and backed a move by the secretary general to hold new peace talks with the two countries.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is to report back to the council within three weeks on the results of his talks with the foreign ministers or other emissaries of the two sides. Iran Tuesday accused the Security Council of wasting time on an arms embargo instead of

Gunmen hit IRA funeral; 3 killed, 34 injured

BELFAST (AP) — A gunman firing pistols and hurling hand grenades attacked a graveside service for three Irish Republican Army (IRA) members Wednesday, killing three people and injuring 34, police reported. One man was arrested. Thousands of mourners flung themselves to the ground as the explosions ripped across the Milltown Roman Catholic cemetery, while hundreds of others raced across the graves pursuing a suspected attacker. One attacker, weaving and dodging between gravestones, flung a hand grenade at the pursuing mourners. Organisers of the funeral for the IRA guerrillas, who were shot by British troops in Gibraltar, immediately blamed Protestant paramilitaries for the attack. Police, who had deliberately kept away from the funerals, (Continued on page 5)

told outside the police station, said Awad was being questioned about taking two foreign television crews to a woman's



Palestinian protesters grapple with Israeli soldiers in the Al Amari refugee camp in the occupied West Bank

sit-in in Isawiya village. "What I heard him say was that there was a woman's sit-in protesting an attack by (Jewish) settlers" in which two cars and five houses were damaged, said Kuttub. "He was asked to leave and he did."

Kuttub said police had no warrant and hadn't said whether he will be formally charged. He said Awad was stopped by traffic police for failing to signal a right turn.

A senior government official who demanded anonymity said (Continued on page 5)

Sharaa: Arabs are united against Shultz plan

PARIS (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said Wednesday the Arab World was united in opposition to the latest United States peace plan for the Middle East as it stood.

He said the so-called Shultz plan of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was unacceptable because it did not demand the return of all Arab territories occupied by Israel and did not specifically endorse unrestricted self-determination for the Palestinians.

Sharaa was speaking to reporters in Paris after two hours of talks between French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond and an Arab League delegation, which includes Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

"All occupations must be terminated. There is no other solution as long as Israel retains an inch of Arab occupied territories," Sharaa said.

"The Palestinian people have a national right to self-determination. This implies anything they want and it cannot be restricted," Sharaa added. "We are not speaking on behalf of Syria but of all Arab countries."

He said: "The Shultz plan as it is not acceptable at all to any Arab party concerned and we made this clear to Raimond... (It) does not specifically and clearly say Israel should withdraw from all occupied territories."

"Although it speaks about the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people... it does not say clearly that the national rights of the Palestinian people imply self-determination."

The Syrian minister added that the U.S. plan contained no guarantees that an international conference on the Middle East would be "genuine and effective."

Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi told reporters the delegation had asked France, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, to take firm, rapid action to promote peace in the Middle East.

The delegation, which is due to visit Moscow, Peking and Washington, was prompted by the uprising by Palestinians in the (Continued on page 5)

Reagan, Shamir differ on peace plan

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir ended talks Wednesday with no apparent narrowing of their differences on a U.S. peace plan for the Middle East.

"The United States will not slice this initiative apart and will not abandon it," Reagan said at a White House ceremony at the conclusion of their two-hour meeting.

Shamir, referring to a central element of the American plan, said: "I have strong reservations concerning the proposed international conference, which in my

view is not conducive to peace."

Earlier Wednesday, Shamir held an unscheduled round of talks with Secretary of State George Shultz on the U.S. peace plan.

Israeli sources said the meeting at the State Department did not mean Shamir and Shultz had a compromise in sight, but rather that the two men were determined to keep a constructive tone to current U.S.-Israeli contacts.

Shultz said after his first session with Shamir Tuesday that he had failed to persuade the hardline rightist prime minister to soften his opposition to the Reagan

administration's new regional peace initiative.

"We have discussed all the various elements and we have not found a way to bridge all of the differences," Shultz told reporters after Tuesday's session.

Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, summing up Tuesday's talks, said: "He did not give an answer. He did not say yes. He did not say no."

But Pazner said Shultz's proposal to hold an international peace conference next month was "a sticking point that has to be resolved if we are going to go ahead."

Agreement continues to elude Afghan talks

GENEVA (Agencies) — The Afghan government held fast Wednesday in its refusal to yield on key Pakistani and U.S. concerns at United Nations talks on a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The talks gained a new dimension Wednesday with an announcement by Afghan rebels in Pakistan that they had decided to send a delegation to Geneva.

Afghanistan and Pakistan have agreed on the essentials of a Soviet troop withdrawal, but for the past two weeks there has been near deadlock on Pakistan's request for an end to Soviet military aid to Kabul and for progress towards the formation of a new Kabul government.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil told a news conference Wednesday: "The Pakistanis thus tried to bring about a suspension to the reaching of

agreement and signing of the instruments by creating such artificial obstructions."

Wakil repeated previous statements, backed by the Soviet Union, that the issue of a new Kabul government was none of Pakistan's business and that the Soviet Union had the right to provide military aid.

"Those were issues that had never come up over the six years of talks and no reference to them has ever been made in the Geneva accords," he said.

Pakistan, host to some three million Afghan refugees, is the only party officially negotiating with Afghanistan.

It denies trying to dictate to Afghanistan about a new government, but is concerned that the U.N. agreement will not lead to peace if an administration is not put in place which will satisfy the Afghan rebels.

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze urged the United States during a meeting with U.S. ambassador Jack Matlock Wednesday to take a more responsible approach at the talks and facilitate a speedy solution to the conflict.

A rebel spokesman, Shah Mahmud Muzaffar, told Reuters in Pakistan Wednesday that the seven-party guerrilla alliance had decided to send a delegation to Geneva.

Muzaffar said the delegation would not take direct part in the talks.

The Soviet government issued a statement Tuesday night, after the Geneva negotiations failed to meet a Kremlin deadline for signing a peace package, warning that Pakistan and the U.S. were "profoundly mistaken" if they expected Soviet troops to withdraw without a signed agreement.

King, Saudi leader discuss U.S. peace plan, Gulf developments

RIYADH (Agencies) — Jordanian-Saudi talks led by His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz began Wednesday at Al Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh and Jordanian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohammad Rasul Al Keilani.

The Saudi side to the talks included Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal, Minister of Higher Education Abdul Aziz Al Khawaiter, Minister of Information Ali Shaer and the Saudi ambassador to Jordan.

The King's talks with the Saudi leader were expected to focus on the new American peace plan for the Middle East and the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war.

King Hussein arrived here earlier in the day.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the King's talks with the Saudi leader were part of the ongoing consultations between King Hussein and Arab leaders on developments in the region.



King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz



HM King Hussein

specially in light of Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and efforts towards convening an international peace conference as well as the latest U.S. proposals for a settlement.

Before arriving in Riyadh the King called at Medina where he prayed at the Prophet Mohammad's Mosque.

Following the visit to Saudi Arabia, the King is scheduled to go to Sanaa, North Yemen, for talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Petra said.

Before the King's departure, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as

Regent. Officials quoted by Reuter said King Hussein was expected to seek Saudi views on the new U.S. proposals, made by Secretary of State George Shultz.

The monarch has already consulted the leaders of Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Kuwait.

The King has also invited Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to Amman to discuss the U.S. proposals.

Jordan has said that it saw some positive elements in the Shultz plan and that it was studying the proposals.



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Adail	627271-2	926607
Fifth Circle	822901-3	—
Swaleh	841626-7	175
Mahatta	651375-7	8904
Wahdat	792123/ 771122-3	16067
Jabal Al-Hussein	614247/ 640237	8348
Shmelsani	660115	950546
Zerqa	987512/ 983381-2	145
Wadi Essair	810312/ 810311	140025

Arab Bank Limited

By Rania Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If sports can do wonders for your well-being, too much of it can be hazardous to your health — that is the consensus among Jordanian specialists in the wake of the growing sports-for-fitness craze in the country.

Along with the increasing number of sports enthusiasts in the country there has been an accompanying rise in sports-related injuries. And that ought to make us think twice, not about exercise itself, but about exercising the proper way in order to be fit and remain injury-free, the specialists warn.

The sports-for-fitness craze has evolved over the past five years or so for several reasons, not least of which is our way of life. "I feel a need to exercise because at work I'm sitting down almost all the time," says Laila Rashedat, who recently joined a health centre in Amman. "I have to make up for the seven hours or so of inactivity. I also need to release the tension and stress that accumulates during this time," she added.

But, blind enthusiasm about exercise may get you in trouble. "I used to run five miles a day and it felt excellent," Elena, a jogger, said. "I became addicted to running, but little did I know that I was pushing myself too far, and I ended up injuring my knee." After two operations, "I cannot run as I did before, and finding an alternative has proved more difficult than I thought."

Doctors agree that the increase in sports-related injuries is due to several factors: People start exercising too suddenly without the essential warm-up, exercise too much at a time, or exercise on irregular bases. If these factors are avoided, a larger number of people would enjoy the benefits of fitness exercises without having to pay a high price for it.

Orthopaedic surgeons interviewed by the Jordan Times reported that most injuries they have treated were sustained by people during football games, aerobics, jogging and tennis. The back, neck and knees are the parts of the body affected most, muscles being pulled and ligaments sprained or torn.

A large number of these injuries can be treated fairly easily, requiring a period of rest and, in

some cases, some form of medication or therapy. But some injuries can be more serious, with long-term effects on a person. "A disc is a permanent injury," said Dr. Nabil Atalla, an orthopaedic surgeon, adding that he has seen a considerably large number of women suffering from lower back pain resulting from aerobics.

Fashionable trend

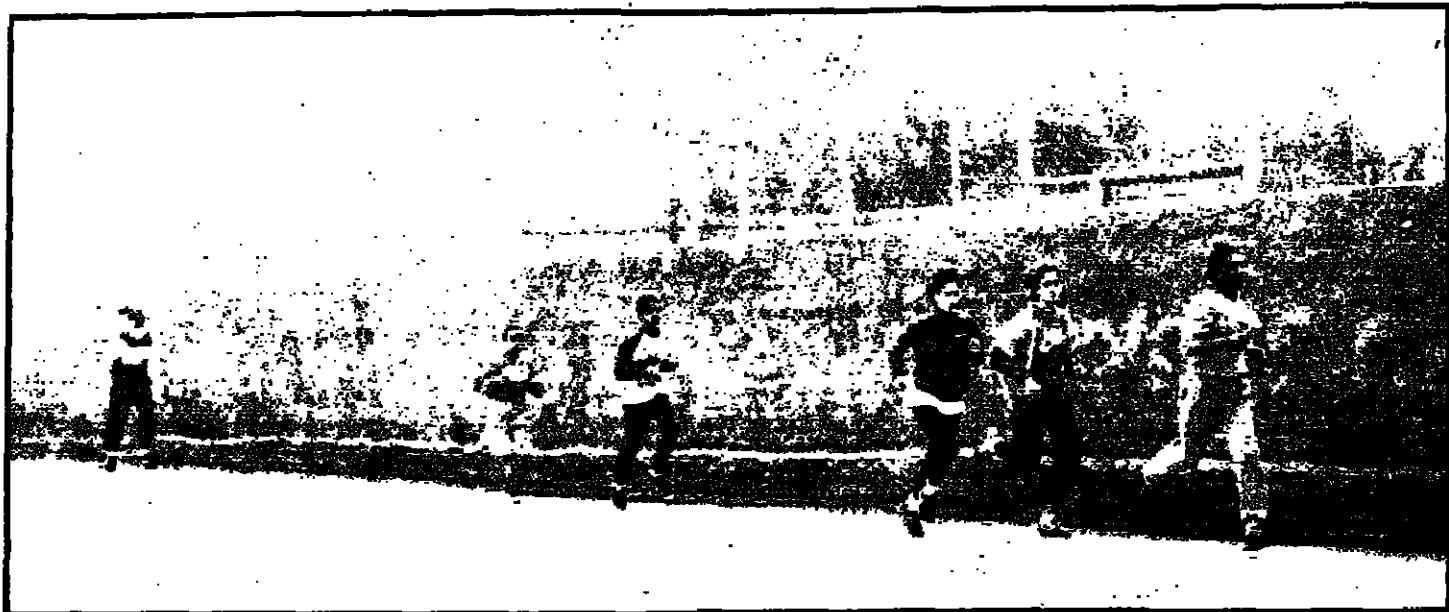
Dina Sa'id, a physical fitness instructor, says that 75 per cent of those who attend her aerobics class do so "because it has become a fashion."

"Some people haven't done any exercise in their life, and suddenly here comes this aerobics thing and everybody wants to do it." It is with that type of students "that I see the most injuries and problems," Sa'id said.

But do real enthusiasts have to pay a high price to exercise and be fit? Not so, say the specialists, provided they approach it the right way. In fact, this is the point that sports specialists and doctors are trying to make.

"If it is done properly, with reasonable expectation and clear purpose, exercise can be beneficial," says another orthopaedic surgeon.

Different people have different bodies and therefore different needs; the suitable type of exercise varies accordingly. Some people exercise in order to improve the shape of their bodies by



Watch it — warm up first

building or toning muscles; others exercise to lose weight.

"You have to know your purpose in exercising before you start," says Samir Nasser, the University of Jordan basketball coach. "Talking to specialists about exercise and sports is essential. They will tell you what best suits your condition and how to follow a safe programme," Nasser added.

Whatever the selected sport, there are essential guidelines that have to be seriously adhered to in order to reduce the risk of injury

or avoid it altogether.

Warm-ups

The first and most important of these guidelines is preparing the body properly before exercise. Leonora Darison, an aerobics instructor, believes that "if you intend to put your body through stress... you need to get your major muscles stretched out and warmed."

The principle behind this idea, Nasser explains, is that warming up increases the blood supply to

the muscles and raises their temperature, which in turn makes them more resistant to injury. "A muscle is made up of fibres, and when the fibres are stretched during warm-ups, they are prepared to go to their maximum range without causing injury." In effect, when people exert themselves while exercising, the risk of injury is reduced considerably.

Warm-ups include breathing exercises to warm the lungs, on-the-spot running to raise the heartbeat rate, flexing and extension movements to get the joints

moving, as well as muscle-stretching movements. "The idea is to bring more blood to the area involved in order to prepare the muscles for use," says Dr. Hanna Qawar, another orthopaedic surgeon and committee member of the Arab and Asian Football Associations.

And just how important are warm-ups for injury prevention? Doctors agree that warm-ups reduce the risk of injury by up to 80 per cent. In other words, while exercising, if a person makes a wrong movement that could

cause an injury, warming-up would reduce the possibility of such an injury actually occurring down to 20 per cent.

Another factor to consider is overexertion and muscle overuse. It used to be common belief that the more an exercise hurts, the better it is for the body. But since fitness cannot be acquired overnight, specialists feel it essential for people to exercise carefully and gradually.

"I can do one hundred sit-ups and injure my back, but what's the use?" Sa'id exclaimed. She explained that during exercise "whenever you feel pain, you should stop, drop back to a lower level, and work on that level." Sa'id sums up the idea: "listen to your body and to what it tells you. It will set the limit for you."

Some doctors and fitness experts believe that it is essential for people over 40 to have a medical check-up before they start exercising, especially if the type of exercise is demanding and involves rough physical movement. But others go even further. "A medical test is the number one priority for everyone," says Nasser. "It should be done even before registering for the exercise class."

Dr. Qawar seconds this idea and states that your physician "can tell you what to do and how to start." He cited a case of an overweight person with heart problems or diabetes. "If this person starts running without a

medical check-up, he could get into trouble," he said.

Exercising on an appropriate surface is another important factor. "The surface on which one exercises has to have the capacity to absorb shocks," says Faisal Malhas, a sports and fitness specialist. For example, "exercising on concrete covered with carpet gives you the illusion that you are exercising on a soft surface," and that could be dangerous, he added.

This is especially important for aerobics workouts. But for those who cannot find a suitable shock-absorbing surface, there is always an alternative: Low-impact aerobics. A relatively new form of exercise which involves no jumping. Low-impact aerobics is "designed to minimise the risk of injury by reducing the stress on the joints," according to Malhas.

Similarly, the exercise gear that one uses is important for injury prevention. According to Dr. Qawar, people should use the appropriate gear for exercise, depending on the type of sport and on the person.

As far as fitness is concerned, doctors interviewed by the Jordan Times agreed that the risk of injury is usually higher at the beginning of an exercise programme. This means that those who have been exercising for a period of time have attained a certain level of fitness that puts them at an advantage — their muscular system is more developed and can therefore tolerate more stress and exertion. This allows them to exercise more effectively, reducing the risk of injury considerably.

Since the injury risk is higher at the beginning of a programme, exercising on a regular basis saves you the trouble of starting over again and therefore exposing yourself to a higher risk potential. Thus, the importance of consistency and continuity in exercise.

While there are no guarantees for one to exercise and remain injury free, specialists feel that abiding by these guidelines can reduce the risks considerably and is well worth the effort. "Once you are injured, it takes time to rest, recover and then start all over again," says Malhas. To avoid that, he adds, you have to know that "fitness is a long process that is only achieved slowly and gradually."



Squash is a tough sport that requires fitness and endurance (Photo by Rania Atalla)



Sa'id, 30, exercises to keep fit and lose weight (Photo by Rania Atalla)

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION	20:00 Evening Show
Tel: 773111-19	21:00 News Summary
	21:05 Evening Show Contd.
PROGRAMME ONE	21:55 News Summary
15:00 Koran	22:00 Evening Show Contd.
15:30 Programme Review	23:00 News Summary
15:40 Children's programmes	23:05 Evening Show Contd.
16:05 Mop and Smiff	23:57 News Headlines
16:20 Children's programme	24:00 Close Down
17:15 Wonderful World of Magic	
17:35 French teaching programme	
18:00 Folk Music from Africa	
18:30 He's the Mayor	
19:05 Health and Life (local)	
19:35 World News Reports	
19:50 Programme review	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 Arabic series	
21:30 Review of next week's programmes	
22:00 Arabic play	
23:00 News summary in Arabic	
23:10 Closed down	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00 Rue Carnot	
18:30 La chance aux chansons	
19:00 News in French	
19:15 French Varieties	
19:30 News in Hebrew	
19:45 Varieties	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 Kate and Alie	
21:10 Rags to Riches	
22:00 News in English	
22:20 Feature film: "Cloud Walker"	
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM	
& partly on 9260 KHz. SW	
Tel: 774111-19	
07:00 Light Music	
07:30 Newsdesk	
08:00 Morning Show	
08:30 News Summary	
09:05 Morning Show Contd.	
11:00 Country Music	
11:30 Hitsville: The story of Motown	
12:00 News Summary	
12:05 Newsdesk	
13:00 News Summary	
13:05 Pop Session	
14:00 News Bulletin	
14:10 Instruments	
14:30 My Music	
15:00 Concert Hour	
16:00 News Summary	
16:30 Old Favourites	
16:50 Instruments	
17:00 Hitsville: The story of Motown	
17:30 Pop Session	
18:00 News Summary	
18:05 Our Mutual Friend	
18:30 Music	
19:00 Newsdesk	
19:30 Date with a Star	

FOR FRIDAY	21:00 Arabic Series
	22:00 Varieties
JORDAN TELEVISION	22:30 Arabic series
Tel: 773111-19	23:00 News summary in Arabic
	23:10 Series contd.
PROGRAMME ONE	
10:00 Koran	
10:30 Programme Review	
10:40 Rainbow Rite	
10:50 Cartoons and Children's programme	
11:30 Religious series	
12:30 Friday's prayer	
14:30 Sports magazine	
14:40 Art and Crafts	
15:25 Vengeance	
16:45 Arabic Comedy	
17:15 Believe It or Not	
18:05 News reports	
18:20 Viewers' choice (Arabic)	
19:30 Local programme	
19:50 Programme review	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 Programme on the West Bank	

TODAY'S EVENTS	SERVICE CLUBS
EXHIBITIONS	The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
★ An art exhibition by Olivia Pallard at Alia Art Gallery (until March 28).	Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
★ Book exhibition at the Comprehensive Commercial Centre (Tower Building), Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle (permanent).	Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
★ Exhibition entitled "La terre entre vos mains" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 17).	Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
★ Book exhibition at Arabian Club, Irbid (runs through March 17).	Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816334, 817534.
★ "Fifth Caricature Exhibition," works of the late Najj Al Ali at Hussein Camp Youth Activities Centre.	Churches
★ General book exhibition at the Professional Associations Complex in Shmeisani.	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
★ Exhibition of artificial flowers, ceramics and handicrafts. Plaza Hotel from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (runs through 18/3/88).	Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 637440.
★ Audio-visual material at Ma'n Secondary Girls School at Mazra'at (runs through March 17).	De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussien, Tel. 661757.
★ An exhibition entitled "Reconstruction of Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock" at King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Mosque.	Terrace Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Luweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 775261.
Bazaar	Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.
★ Charitable bazaar at Housewives Society - Zarqa (runs through March 17).	Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer), Jabal Amman, Tel. 625363, chaplain's residence tel. 601399.
Film Festival	Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
★ Journal d'une femme de chambre" at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the Spanish Cultural Centre.	St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Feature Film	Amman International Church (Inter-denominational); meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.
★ "The Hustler" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre	Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabie, meets Sunday 7:00 p.m. Rev. N. Smir, tel. 811285.

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	ARRIVALS
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.	ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
	09:15 Agaba (RJ)
	09:30 Cairo (RJ)
	09:40 Kuwait (RJ)
	09:40 Jeddah (RJ)
	09:50 Dhahran (RJ)
	09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
	10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
	10:20 New York, Vienna (RJ)
	10:30 Athens (RJ)
	10:35 London, Geneva (RJ)
	10:45 Bucharest, Larnaca (RJ)
	10:45 Rome (RJ)
	23:55 Baghdad (RJ)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
12:05 Cairo (MS)	
12:10 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)	
13:40 Kuwait (RJ)	
14:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)	
15:00 Riyadh (SV)	
15:30 Baghdad (IA)	
16:20 Amsterdam (KLM)	
16:35 Cairo (MS)	
19:15 Frankfurt (LH)	
20:15 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)	
21:05 Paris (AF)	
06:25 London, Cairo (BA)	
DEPARTURES	
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
07:00 Agaba (RJ)	
08:30 Bucharest (RJ)	
08:45 Larnaca, Athens (RJ)	
10:00 Rome (RJ)	
10:30 Frankfurt, London (RJ)	
12:15 Brussels, Paris (RJ)	
13:35 Kuwait (RJ)	
15:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)	
15:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
19:55 Baghdad (RJ)	
20:00 Jeddah (RJ)	
20:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
20:15 Cairo (MS)	
21:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)	
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)	
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
06:20 Frankfurt (LH)	

Juke Box Dury 12:15 Seven Seas 12:30	Letter from Northern Ireland 00:30
Jazz for the Asking 13:00 World News	Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45
13:00 News About Britain 13:15 Talking	Sports Roundup 01:00 World News:
From 13:30 Meridian 14:00	Commentary 01:15 From the Weeklies
Radio Newsweek 14:15 Business Mat-	01:30 Multitrack 3
ters 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00	
World News 15:00 24 Hours: News	
Summary 15:30 John Peel 16:00 Out-	
look: 5-Minute News 16:45 Nature	
Notebook 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15	
The Reunited Debutante 18:00 World	
News 18:00 Contemporary 18:15 Science	
in Action 18:45 The World Today	
19:00 World News 19:00 A Letter from	
Northern Ireland 19:15 Music Now	
19:30 Sports Roundup 20:00 Newsdesk	
20:30 Multitrack 3 21:00 News Sum-	
mary: Outlook 21:30 Stock Market	
Report 21:45 Personal View 22:00	
World News 22:00 Science in Action	
22:45 14:05 Summary: Network UK	
23:15 Business Matters 23:45 Augustus	
Carp Esq. by Hunsell 24:00 World	
News 00:00 The World Today 00:25 A	

EMERGENCIES	NIGHT DUTY
Amman governorate 891228	AMMAN:
Amman Civil Defence 198, 199	Dr. Khalid M'addi 743500
Civil Defence Irbid 771293, 771313	Dr. Ali Zamil 606806
Civil Defence Qusayir 770733	Dr. Yaser Haddad 667753
Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306	Dr. Mohammad Awadi 741391
Ambulance 193, 775111	Firas pharmacy 661912
Amman downtown fire brigade 198	Fertodos pharmacy 778336
First aid 6324	Al Asasa pharmacy 670336
Blood Bank 778303	Nairook pharmacy 623672
Civil Defence rescue 661111	Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Fire headquarters 622090-3	Yaacoub pharmacy 644945
Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777	Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Police headquarters 63914	TAXIS:
Traffic police 8963901	Tahal taxi 640033
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 634881	Venice taxi 644584
Municipal water complaints 771258	Asfour taxi 633230
Queen Alia Intl. Airport (06)5330060	Tamer taxi 813581
	Nakda taxi 663003
	Holiday taxi 663100
	Sayed taxi 604422
	Middle East taxi 604615
	IRBID:
	Dr. Marwan Habbab 243796
	Sharaa pharmacy 275825
	ZARQA:
	Dr. Ziyad Salim (—)
	Khalifah pharmacy 985417
	GENERAL
	Jordan Television 773111/19
	Radio Jordan 774111/19
	Ministry of Tourism 642311
	Hotel complaints 664124
	Price complaints 661776
	Telephone information 12
	Jordan and Middle East calls 10
	Caracas calls 11
	Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in ffs per kg.	
Apple (French) 420 / 360	Grapefruit 260 / 200
Apple (green) 470 / 400	Lemon 170 / 120
Banana 350 / 300	Marrow 160 / 120
Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 240	Onion (green) 160 / 120
Beans 650 / 550	Onion (dry) 220 / 170
Beans (broad) 230 / 180	Oranges (local) 140 / 140
Cabbage 220 / 180	Oranges (Shamouti) 330 / 280
Carrot 260 / 200	Peanut 480 / 400
Cauliflower (white) 170 / 120	Pepper (hot) 560 / 500
Cucumbers 280 / 230	Pepper (sweet) 340 / 300
Dates (box) 700 / 600	Potato 120 / 80
Eggplant (large) 250 / 200	Radish 140 / 80
Eggplant (small) 260 / 200	Spinach 160 / 120
Garlic 140 / 100	Tomatoes 110 / 80
Garlic (green) 280 / 200	Turnip 160 / 120

HANDICAPPED: The Council of Higher Education is studying a proposal for exempting physically handicapped persons from 90 per cent of their university fees. The proposal, according to Al-Dustour Arabic daily, was submitted to the council by the University of Jordan. Also according to the paper, the council was studying a proposal to establish a community college in Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank.

SAUDI TEAM: A Saudi medical delegation, now on a visit to Jordan, called at Al-Bashir Government Hospital and looked into its health facilities and medical services. They met with officials and heard a briefing on the hospital's programmes and development.

2 SCHOLARSHIPS: The U.S. Cultural Centre in Amman has decided to grant two scholarships to teachers from Yarmouk University. The two Fulbright Scholarships for the academic year 1988/89 will go to Dr. Nabil Ayoub from the Physics Department and Dr. Issam Abu Salim from the English Department.

AOAS MEETING: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) Secretary General Khaled Radadeh will take part in the executive council meeting of the Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences which will open in Morocco in the coming week. The council will discuss resolutions adopted by the Arab Economic and Social Council about conducting reassessment of the Arab League specialised organisations and agencies.

ROAD ACCIDENT: Three people died Tuesday in a road accident and in a drowning incident at Qweira and Muwaqqar, according to a report in Al Ka' Arabic daily. The report said that the drivers of an oil tanker truck and a lorry, Omar Mahmoud and Abdul Latif Sayed, died when their vehicles collided at Qweira. The two vehicles sustained heavy damage and the bodies were taken to the Princess Haya Hospital in Aqaba, the report said. It said that Tareq Ahmad Mohammad died when he drowned in a pool behind a dam built by the University of Jordan at Muwaqqar.

MALAYSIAN MOSQUE: A delegation from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs recently attended the inauguration ceremony of Malaysia's biggest mosque which was built by King Mahmud Iskandar of Malaysia. The ministry Assistant Secretary General Dr. Ahmad Helayel, who headed the delegation, said that he also met with senior Malaysian officials and held talks with officials at the World Islamic University and the Malaysian Islamic Centre, on cooperation especially in the field of cultural and religious scholarships.

FINNISH GROUP: A visiting Finnish delegation from the Finnish Passikivi Council Tuesday met with the members of the World Affairs Council (WAC). Jaako Iloniemi, who heads the delegation, outlined Finland's foreign policy and history noting his country's neutral policy in its relations with various countries of the world.

SLIDE LECTURE: A slide lecture by Greek archaeologist Konstantinos Politis entitled "Greece and Jordan: 3,000 Years of Contacts" will be given at the Orthodox Club on Jabal Amman Saturday, March 19. The lecture has been sponsored by the Greek-Jordanian Friendship Association.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH: A 16-year-old girl was killed when she was run over by a bulldozer at Kifunje, in northern Jordan, according to a report in Al-Dustour Arabic daily. It said that a number of children had climbed the bulldozer and caused it to move in a reverse order hitting and immediately killing the girl. The paper also reported a fire which broke out near the Al Hussein Thermal Power Station resulting in material damage but no casualties.

BAZAAR: Minister of Youth Dr. Awad Khleifat Wednesday opened a bazaar at Tayche Hotel organised by several local companies on the occasion of Mother's Day. On display at the bazaar are foodstuff, furniture, cosmetics, jewellery, gifts, clothes and books.

APPLICATIONS: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has decided to extend the period for renewing applications for employment in government jobs until the end of March. Applicants who did not renew their job applications should fill special renewal forms, available at all post offices in the country, which will consequently be sent to the CSC.



The Arab-Soviet Dialogue opens Wednesday at the Royal Court (Petra photo)

Jordan marks Al Israa Wal Mi'raj

AMMAN (Petra + J.T.) — Jordan along with Arab and Islamic countries Wednesday celebrated Al Israa Wal Mi'raj, with religious ceremonies held in different mosques around the Kingdom. The ceremonies were organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The main ceremony was held on the eve of the feast at Al Hussein Mosque, downtown Amman, when Muslim scholars and other prominent figures made speeches on the occasion. The Royal Court announced that His Majesty King Hussein received good-will messages from senior Jordanian officials, expressing hope that the Arab and Islamic nations achieve their aspirations by liberating their occupied territories and the Holy

Places in Jerusalem.

The cables wished the King continued success in leading Jordan towards further progress and prosperity.

Cables of good wishes came from the prime minister, speakers of both houses of parliament, the Armed Forces commander-in-chief, heads of public and private organisations and heads of diplomatic missions in Jordan.

All government departments and public institutions remained closed Wednesday on this holy occasion.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced that it was embarking on a number of important projects, which include the installation of an early fire alarm system at the Aqsa Mosque in Jeru-

salem, which was the target of arson in August 1969.

The projects include the completion of work on the King Abdullah Mosque in Amman and agricultural schemes that would benefit the ministry's charity programmes.

These, according to ministry officials, include a project in the Jordan Valley for breeding bees that can produce 3,000 kilograms of honey annually, an orphanage at Al Musheirfeh at the cost of JD 7 million, restoring mosques built over the tombs of the Prophet Mohammad's companions at the cost of JD 2 million, setting up a home for the aged, a vocational training centre and a centre for training mosque preachers.



Candidates for the presidency of the Agricultural Engineering Association hold an open debate Tuesday evening at the Professional Associations Complex in Amman (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Agricultural engineers seek best presidential candidate

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Agricultural engineers maintain that the element paramount for a candidates election as president of their association is his personality, but they differ on what the qualities of that personality should be.

The three candidates for the post are: Current President Tareq Al Tal, and two independent candidates: Fahd Abu Qamar and Thabit Ghaith. The three contestants seemed to understand what is wanted of them and rushed to fit the order in an open debate held at the Professional Associations Complex Tuesday.

According to most agricultural engineers interviewed by the Jordan Times, the best man for the post is the one with the most government contacts and leverage. One engineer said: "We need someone who would be able to use his contacts to press the government to pass laws that would improve our situation."

Agricultural engineers feel there is one candidate who would be able to do just that: the current President, Tareq Al Tal, but the opposition seemed divided between the two other candidates.

While Abu Qamar only carried mild criticism of the current president, he seemed to be the one who has most chance of contesting Tal's seat. According to one of his supporters, "he has the personality and traits which we need in our next president."

The qualities of Abu Qamar's personality are definitely different from those of Tal. Abu Qamar and his bloc are mainly private sector agricultural engineers and according to his supporters, "a president from the private sector would not be afraid of negative government measures because he is not on their payroll."

Ghaith, sarcastically criticised the current president and his "achievements during his presidency." But according to many engineers Ghaith lacks the strength of character that the two other candidates have.

An agricultural issue which loomed large in the minds of the voters was the recent decision by the Agricultural Cooperative Organisation to cut the overtime payments for field work. The decision affected at least 82 agricultural engineers.

According to one agricultural engineer, "Tal's private efforts to end the dispute over this decision and his important contacts were not able to reverse the decision."

He maintained that in such cases, "a president from the private sector would have been able to take a stronger position, backed by the whole association, rather than taking matters privately as Tal did, without fear of government pressure."

All voters interviewed by the Jordan Times felt that there should be an immediate solution to this problem, especially since these cuts have drastically affected their monthly incomes.

An engineer, who works with the Jordan Valley Authority, said that this cut in field payments has reduced his income by over 30 per cent so far, and as of May 1 this percentage would increase because there would be further cuts.

Another engineer who worked with the Ministry of Education said that "there are 80 engineers in the ministry who do not receive any type of overtime payments at all."

Politics of the Middle East and support for the Palestinian national uprising took precedence over many agricultural issues, as engineers questioned candidates about their plans for supporting the steadfastness of the people in the occupied territories in general, and the West Bank farmers in particular.

One agricultural engineer stressed that the current president has acted on his own initiative and left the Agricultural Engineers Association lacking in any instrumental effort for supporting the uprising.

The engineer added that the association was the only one not to participate in a dinner, held by the Professional Association Complex, to collect funds for the

uprising. The two contesting candidates suggested measures of support, which ranged from Abu Qamar's general vows to provide all financial and emotional backing to the uprising, to support of agricultural engineers in the occupied territories.

While Ghaith maintained that all support for the uprising so far has been a "mixture of slogans which do not necessarily depict our real feelings," he called for more concrete financial measures to support the steadfastness of agricultural engineers in the occupied territories.

Ghaith added that it would be more beneficial if the association relieves West Bank agricultural engineers from their membership fees, and even gave them money from the association's Retirement Fund.

"Let them keep their money, that would be one of the most important things to do in support of our colleagues," stressed Ghaith.

Female agricultural engineers and their welfare in the association was an important issue on Abu Qamar's election note, and in answer to a question about what exactly he had in mind, Abu Qamar explained that there are 450 female agricultural engineers, constituting 15 per cent of the total number of members in the association. According to Abu Qamar the rate of unemployment among female engineers is higher than males, and that there should be clear plans to help the females step over these hurdles.

Abu Qamar added that in all the earlier committees women's role was solely in the social committees. "This should change, giving them more equal rights."

Tal debated this issue with Abu Qamar and maintained that during his time the retirement age was changed from 30 years of work to 30 years after graduation, mainly to accommodate the female engineers who would not be able to spend 30 years working as a result of their other obligations.

The elections will be held on March 25 and only 921 agricultural engineers out of 3,000 are eligible to vote.

Scholars open 1st session of Arab-Soviet dialogue

Arabs hail balanced Soviet stand on Mideast conflicts

By Saleem B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab and Soviet scholars Wednesday opened the first session of the Arab-Soviet dialogue, stressing the theme of cooperation towards solving regional conflicts and easing threats to world security.

Arab speakers hailed the Soviet Union's balanced stands vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war, which are in harmony with United Nations resolutions and the collective will of the international community.

Soviet scholars discussed the latest developments in the region, including the continuing Palestinian anti-Israeli uprising in the occupied Arab territories, and ongoing efforts to convene a U.N.-sponsored international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Speaking at the opening session, Deputy Director of the Academy for African Studies, Professor Alexi Vassiliev, said that United Nations resolutions on Palestinian rights must not be left out in any future settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said Palestinians did not object to United Nations Resolution 242, rather they want to incorporate this resolution with others dealing with legitimate Palestinian rights.

Vassiliev said Israel's continued refusal to recognise the legitimate rights of Palestinian people constituted a major obstacle in the face of convening the proposed international conference.

He said the Palestinian popular uprising came "as a rejection of the continuing Israeli occupation, oppression and arbitrary measures."

Dr. Ahmad Sidqi Dajani delivered a speech to the meeting in which he reviewed developments in Arab-Soviet relations, and the need to improve bilateral cooperation towards the achievement of common goals in the region.

Dajani explained that Israel was a threat to the Soviet Union as well as the Arab World, through the broader strategic role

played by the Zionist state. He pointed out that Israel has recently developed the Jericho intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

He said the missile was "a dangerous challenge to the Soviet Union and a manifestation of the strategic role Israel plays in the global scene."

Regent praises Soviets

In a speech he delivered to the

participants in the Arab-Soviet dialogue, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, expressed appreciation of the Soviet Union's balanced stance on the Middle East problem.

He echoed the view held by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who said that the interests of both the East and West are in solving the Middle East problem.

The Crown Prince said that Arab and Soviet views were identical on the need to convene an international Middle East peace conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He said Jordan appreciated Moscow's stand on the Gulf war, including its recent stand related to an arms embargo against Iran.

The Crown Prince said that the Iran-Iraq war, which has entered its eighth year, was taking a turn for the worse in the war of the cities in which numerous civilians are being killed by missile attacks.

He said the Soviet decision to ban the sale of arms comes in support of Security Council Resolution 598 for a Gulf war ceasefire and an end to the conflict.

Jordan's balanced policy

On Jordanian relations with the Soviet Union, Prince Hassan said Jordan believed in opening channels of communications and developing relations with all countries in the world, as part of a balanced policy that is in harmony with Non-Aligned stands, which safeguard the freedom of choice for each country.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, delivers a speech to the participants of the Arab-Soviet dialogue at the Royal Court Tuesday (Petra photo)

Zarqa celebrates Arab Cities Day

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Municipality Tuesday celebrated the anniversary of the Arab Cities Day.

On this occasion, head of the municipal council Badri Bahaudin said that Zarqa municipality set up six public gardens in various districts and allocated JD 75,000 for setting up more such parks and recreation areas during 1988.

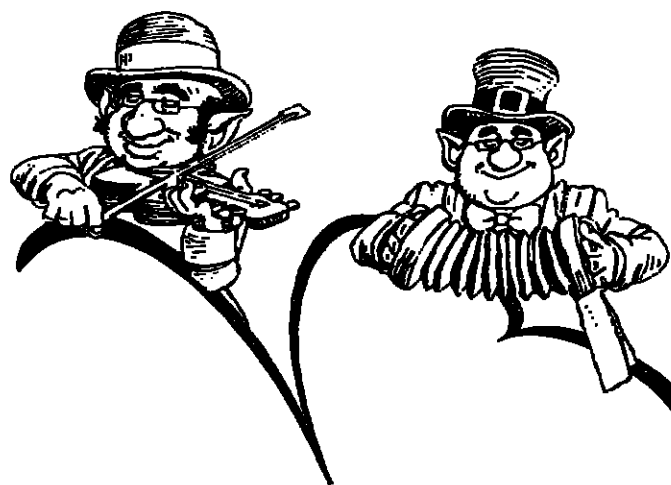
"At present the municipality is setting up a public library and a multi-purpose hall to cater for the needs of the public," Bahaudin noted.

He said the municipality was enlisting the help of schools and other organisations to help maintain cleanliness and spread vegetation in and around the city. On the occasion, a ceremony

was held in which the Arab Cities Organisation flag was raised side by side with the Jordanian flag, and posters were set up in the main squares urging the public to maintain a clean and green city.

Bahaudin called on the people to give special attention to planting trees and avoid violations of building and construction regulation.

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Sounding the alarm

ISRAEL is clearly attempting to tighten the noose around the neck of the Palestinian popular insurrection. What started with an iron-fist policy against the Palestinians is ending up with strangulation policies ranging from cutting off supplies including fuel to banning travel between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. And Wednesday, international telephone links with Arab homes were cut. Next on the mind of the Israeli government could be the interruption of travel between Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza. And with these ominous developments the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip can only become worse. It is imperative therefore to sound the alarm, before the uprising itself assumes more and more dangerous and bloody dimensions. The imminent bloodier showdown between the Israeli occupying authorities and the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip should prompt all concerned to hasten a peaceful resolution of the Palestinian case, on terms that have international law and United Nations resolutions as a foundation. We are fearful that if the cycle of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continues unabated, the fire which ensues will engulf our whole region.

The scenarios for such an ominous deterioration may not exclude touching off another war between the Arab countries and Israel. It is not far-fetched to contemplate stronger Arab involvement if the situation in the occupied Arab territories deteriorates even further and assumes more dangerous proportions. In other words, an overall conflagration engulfing the whole region has become a real possibility. It would be irresponsible to dismiss this eventuality, and all concerned will be advised to prepare for it as of now, and also to attempt to prevent it. All parties are holding their breath pending the final outcome of Mr. Shamir's visit to Washington. If the Shultz plan is dealt a fatal blow by Israel, and all hopes for peaceful resolution are dashed forever, this feared conflagration could change from a mere possibility to a probability.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: An occasion for increased resistance

THE Al Israa Wal Mi'raj anniversary is being celebrated Wednesday by the Arab and Islamic nations at a time when the land of Israel and faith in the holy city of Jerusalem is witnessing stepped up Israeli measures to stifle the faith of the Arabs and their spirit of resistance. As they celebrate the occasion, the faithful look to the approaching 21st anniversary of Israel's occupation of the Aqsa Mosque and the other holy shrines in the occupied city of Jerusalem. The Arab people of Jerusalem and the occupied territories celebrate the occasion with stepped up anti-Israeli protests and resistance, employing stones and all other means available to them in the course of their action against occupation. With strong determination they are fighting the invaders and they are confident of victory and of preserving the Arab character of their city. As we celebrate Al Israa Wal Mi'raj, our faith in the future is enhanced and our trust in the ability of our Arab people is increased. Faith is more powerful than the Israeli military might, and the holy occasion today brings us closer to the holy city, and the intensified Arab resistance around the city is a reminder that injustice can never prevail and that terrorism and oppression must and will end.

Al Dustour: Marking a holy occasion

THE Arabs and Muslims celebrated Al Israa Wal Mi'raj feast Wednesday and remember the steadfast people living in and around the holy city of Jerusalem, the land of Al Israa, who are struggling to ensure freedom and regain their legitimate rights. This anniversary comes at a time when the uprising in the occupied Arab territory is being intensified, and as the Muslims are calling on their brothers and sisters in the Islamic nation to rally behind them in the common struggle to liberate the holy places from Israeli occupation. This anniversary should serve as an incentive for the Arabs and Muslims to forego their side differences and concert all their efforts for liberating their usurped holy city. The Arabs and the Muslims ought on this occasion to work towards ending the conflict between two neighbouring Muslim states Iraq and Iran with all their power and to persuade Iran to respond to the calls of peace. The Al Israa Al Mi'raj calls on all the Arabs and Muslims to unify their ranks and enhance their solidarity in the face of the common threats. They should be guided by the Islamic faith in their struggle to achieve their aspirations.

Sawt Al Shaab: The day of Jerusalem

THE Al Israa Wal Mi'raj is the feast of the holy land in Jerusalem which is still under the yoke of Zionist rule that has caused so much sufferings and tragedies for the Arab Nation. Jerusalem is the focal point for the Arabs and Muslims, and a city that attracts all peace loving nations; and it is a symbol for the Arabs who built their civilisation and their peace and justice in that holy city over hundreds of years. For the Arabs and Muslims there can be no real peace without Jerusalem and its holy places, and therefore they must work with all their hearts and their means to end its usurpation by the Israeli enemy. The just and durable peace demanded by Jordan should be carried out through an international conference to be held under U.N. auspices so that the holy city of Jerusalem can be liberated and see the light again. Jordan has been working towards the liberation of the holy city along with the rest of the Arab territory occupied by Israel since 1967. Despite the occupation over the past years, Jordan has been providing all possible means for preserving the holy places in the Arab city and carrying out restoration work on the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

GUEST COLUMN

By Talal Al Waraq

The implication of U.S. security guarantee to Israel

ALONE among the Western powers the United States has assumed prime diplomatic responsibility for the area; it is the only nation that possesses, even if it is not always exercised, major political influence with the principal nations of the area. The necessary objective of U.S. diplomacy is easy to define: It is to maintain peace and stability, while at the same time fulfilling U.S. commitment to Israel security. It is intrinsically contradictory assignment so long as the United States exercises little influence on Israel policies and Israel remains at war with most of the neighbouring Arab countries.

Now, by way of contrast, let us consider Israel's objectives as defined by its present government. Unlike the United States, Israel is a tiny country that has been forced by the imperatives of self-preservation to shape policy in the narrow ethnocentric perspective of its own immediate advantage. Those Israelis — and they are many — who are capable of far more generous thinking are today in no position to make national policy. So the United States must cope with the extreme right-wing policies of the regime now in power. Relieved of the serious fear of a two-front war by the neutralisation of Egypt under the Camp David accords, that regime has pursued a policy of expansionism, annexing the Golan Heights, seeking through the employment of more and more settlements to achieve at least *de facto* annexation of the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and diligently trying to secure permanent hegemony over southern Lebanon, if not its annexation. The Israeli leaders now in power have clearly chosen expansionism over peace, but at the cost of saddling Israel with the stifling burdens of a garrison state increasingly dependent for its economic life on American bounty.

The Israeli leaders have never accepted the central operating principle of American diplomacy: The exchange of territory for peace. Thus there is a striking contradiction between the national interests and policies of the United States, as they have long been understood, and those of Israel, as defined by Israeli governments.

Progressive degradation

Beginning with the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 and lasting until the June war of 1967, the United States tried (with occasional lapses) to act as an impartial referee between the combatants in the Middle East arena, exercising political and economic persuasion to try to promote reconciliation and maintain peace. But under the Johnson administration, American support for Israel began to change both qualitatively and quantitatively. United States government's assistance to Israel in the fiscal year 1964, the last budget year of the Kennedy administration, amounted to \$40 million, virtually none of which was military. Then Lyndon Johnson turned his back on the policy of even-handedness and ignored the Tripartite Declaration of May 25, 1950.

In the fiscal years 1965 and 1966, his administration provided Israel not merely with defensive weapons but also with 250 tanks and 48 attack aircraft. So rapid was the inflation of U.S. aid that, in the fiscal year 1966 alone, the U.S. provided more military assistance to Israel than it had cumulatively provided during all the years since the creation of the Jewish state.

Such an abrupt departure from a heretofore coherent and bipartisan U.S. foreign policy was a radical change. Yet the aid level attained in 1966 was only a preview of things to come; after the 1967 war, both U.S. military and economic aid shot precipitously upward to an average of \$3 billion per annum in recent years, making America Israel's number one arms supplier.

To justify the drastic increase of U.S. aid to Israel following the 1967 war, America reversed the policy assumptions under which that aid was provided. Yielding to political pressure it no longer contended that Middle East peace could best be secured by maintaining an arms balance; instead, Israel should be provided with arms and equipment surpassing that of all its Arab neighbours.

The rationale for this turning policy on its head was compounded of casuistry, wishful thinking, and domestic politics. So long as Israel continued to feel insecure, it would, its supporters argued, be

reluctant to pursue peace initiatives; but once we assured it arms supremacy, a relaxed Israel would be cooperative and forthcoming in seeking peace with its neighbours. No one bothered to ask what effect an over-armed Israel might have on the policies of the Arab states or whether it would serve American interests to fuel a Middle East arms race.

Instead of encouraging compromise and accommodation, Israel's growing confidence in its military superiority has led it to reject settlement proposals even more vehemently than had previously been the case.

Time works against peace

Because time is working against peace it seems particularly lamentable that serious peace initiatives should be impeded if not foreclosed by the institutionalised paralysis of American politics. Outraged and alarmed by Eisenhower's principled insistence in 1956 that Israel return the territories it had seized in the Suez war, American Jewish leaders promptly set about marshalling their formidable political resources to achieve unique power and effectiveness. Had they focused that political clout on encouraging and assisting Israel to seek peace, they might have transformed the anguished face of the Middle East, but instead they have uncritically supported and defended every action and policy of whatever Israeli government happened to be in power.

It America has been wrong in assuming that an over-armed Israel would feel secure and hence amenable to peacemaking, many Israelis — including some who shape government policy — were, at least until recently, proceeding on equally mistaken assumptions. They nourished the wishful thought that Israel's Arab neighbours would ultimately become reconciled to the reality of Israel's overwhelming power and accept its expanded boundaries as a *fait accompli*. The alarm induced by the spectacle of ever-increasing Israeli military power is not leading the Arab Nation to accept the *status quo*; on the contrary it is gradually overcoming the Arabs' lethargy and compelling their governments to prepare for an eventual showdown.

Unless the arms race can be halted, there is little possibility of diplomacy through negotiation, leaving only what Clausewitz referred to as "diplomacy by other means" — or, in other words, a disastrous war that could very well involve the United States. Today America can no longer afford a policy of acquiescent diplomacy for it is rapidly losing the diplomatic middle ground. The Arabs did not turn towards the United States after the 1973 war out of affection for U.S. or dislike of the Soviets; they saw the U.S. as the only power that possessed effective leverage with Israelis and thus the only power with the ability to secure the return of their territories without further conflict. But that attitude is rapidly changing, as America becomes more and more hostage to Israeli whims and ambitions. If, as many are now urging, U.S. make a full-fledged alliance with Israel, America will have become the Arabs' enemy. Meanwhile, as we watch United States' impotence in dealing with an impotent Israel, the Arabs are being driven once more to pursue a war policy that only the Soviet Union is prepared to support.

The prime lesson for America is that, in the Middle East, time works against peace. Most of today's key Arab rulers are pragmatists — dealers in the art of the possible. They can still be brought to a settlement if America insists that Israel abandon its obsession as a "revolutionary power" with "absolute security" and accept the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which contemplated the exchange of seized territories for peace.

The desire of one power for absolute security as a sufficient guarantee means absolute insecurity for all the others. Diplomacy, the art of restraining the exercise of power, cannot function in such an environment.

But little time is left. If current trends continue, the Arab rulers of the future will be more doctrinaire, more determined and far less susceptible to American influence.

This is war, not a TV game

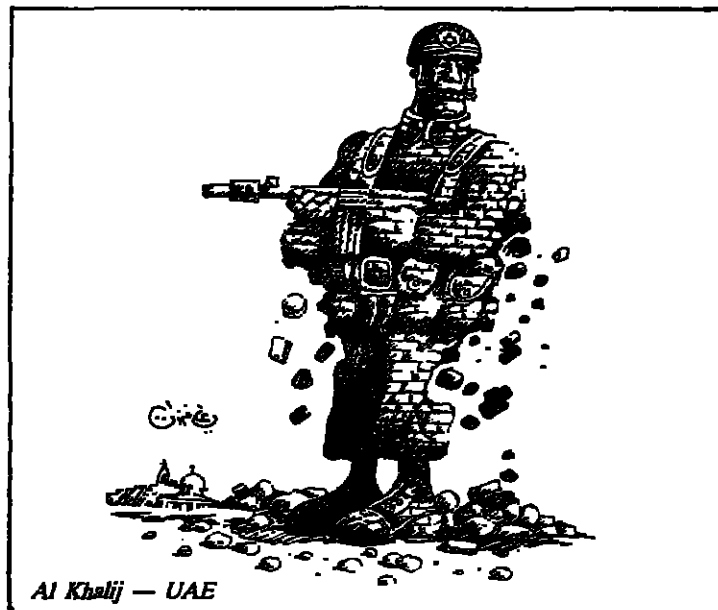
By Thomas L. Friedman

MAZRAA SHARQIYA, Israeli-Occupied West Bank — The 4,000 residents of this tiny Arab village in the West Bank mountains say they have held some 20 demonstrations since the Palestinian uprisings began Dec. 9. The village's Israeli-appointed leaders have all resigned and its youth have broken apart one of the ancient stone terraces on the hillside sloping down from Mazraa Sharqiya in order to build a series of roadblocks at the entrance to the town. Two of the village's residents have been killed, one shot by soldiers, another by a Jewish settler. When an American reporter walked into the hamlet last week, he found scores of people, young and old, congratulating a teen-ager who had been grazed by an Israeli bullet that left an inch-long hole in his shirt sleeve. What is noteworthy is that television cameras have not recorded any of this. The uprising here began without television, it widened without television, and now it is part of local legend without television.

"Same, television is important," said a Mazraa youth, "but we have not gone out and demonstrated for television, and if the Israelis ban the press from coming here they will see that it makes no difference."

Nonetheless, in recent weeks a range of people from right-wing Israeli politicians to former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger have advised that if Israel banned television from the occupied territories and then quelled the protests with an iron fist it could solve its problems. Brig-Gen. Zeev Livneh, the Israeli commander responsible for the northern half of the West Bank, believes such a ban would be a mistake. "This whole situation did not start because of television," he said. "I think we should wrestle with the real problem and not the media."

Having said that, however, General Livneh added that the army will use its legal power to "tactically" close towns for temporary periods when it believes television cameras are fuelling a demonstration or if the Palestinians are staging a demonstration solely for the purpose of televi-



Al Khalij — UAE

sion as has occasionally happened. If television has had a distorting impact on the events in the occupied territories, it has not been so much through its lenses, but through its implicit script, argued Meron Benvenisti, an Israeli expert on the West Bank. Television was drawn to this story out of the belief that it was about David versus Goliath, historical Jewish victims turned victimisers, he said.

"The media want to identify with the oppressed, and they cannot do it if he behaves like a terrorist, so he has to turn what is essentially a communal war into 'Palestinian civil disobedience,'" said Benvenisti. "But what they are missing is that while this confrontation is not between equals — the Jews have far superior firepower — the stake that each side feels it has in the outcome is very equal: Communal survival."

"I was in al-Amari refugee camp last week with a lot of foreign cameramen as well," said Ehud Yaari, Israel Television's Arab affairs correspondent. "Israeli soldiers were standing off at a distance, facing a big violent crowd of Palestinian demonstrators who were throwing rocks, bottles, Molotov cocktails. The following conversation took place between the cameramen and the

Israeli officer in charge: The officer said, 'We are not going to go in. We are not going to do it for you.' And the cameramen said, 'You will have to go in, so you might as well do it now.' Everyone understood his role very well. Eventually the soldiers went in and as soon as they started breaking into homes to capture rioters who had fled, the cameras all started to roll."

The focus on Israeli beatings is not necessarily a negative for Israelis or an unalloyed benefit for the Palestinians. When CBS News took its film of four Israeli soldiers beating two Palestinian prisoners, the film was turned over to the Israeli army and widely shown to senior officers, forcing them and the whole society to confront the brutal reality of their occupation. The danger for Palestinians is that their visibility on television depends on their role as victims, and this role can become an end itself — rather than a phase, or an instrument, to bringing about a peaceful resolution. At some point they will have to get off stage and collectively decide how they want to live with the Israelis.

Why they throw stones Many have assumed that the reason the Palestinians are throwing rocks, flaming bottles and other primitive weapons is be-

cause they have made a political-moral decision to use nonlethal violence. But when Palestinian youths are asked why they use stones they say it is for operational military reasons. They throw stones in order not to have to face Israeli tanks. If they used the few guns they have it would give the Israelis an excuse to come in with their full firepower and finish them. More than 80 Palestinians have been killed in the uprising; but if the Israeli army had used its full lethal force the number could have been 800, which might have ended the rebellion a long time ago. No Israeli soldiers or civilians have been killed by the Palestinians, but dozens have been injured by the primitive weapons.

The daily dialogue between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli soldiers is also not something drawn from the teachings of Gandhi. It often goes something like this: "I'm going to rape your mother." "I am going to rape your sister." "You're a maniac," and, a favourite of Palestinians, "If you were a real man you would put down your gun and come over here and fight."

All the time that television has focused on stones, the PLO has been making constant attempts to infiltrate gunmen into Israel. Finally, it managed to send three men in by way of Egypt. They hijacked a civilian bus, causing the deaths of two Israeli women and a man, before they themselves were killed.

The first reaction of many observers to the bus attack, "How could the PLO be so stupid? They were winning the media war with stones." But the PLO was not being stupid; it was being the PLO. It knew its audience: Many Palestinians in the territories were pleased with the attack, saying that it was about time they got some help from the outside. As for the many Israelis who quietly expressed relief at the incident, because they said it reaffirmed the true nature of the conflict, they were not being callous; they were being Israelis. They and the Palestinians know that this is not a media war but a real war.

— The New York Times

Randa Habib's Corner

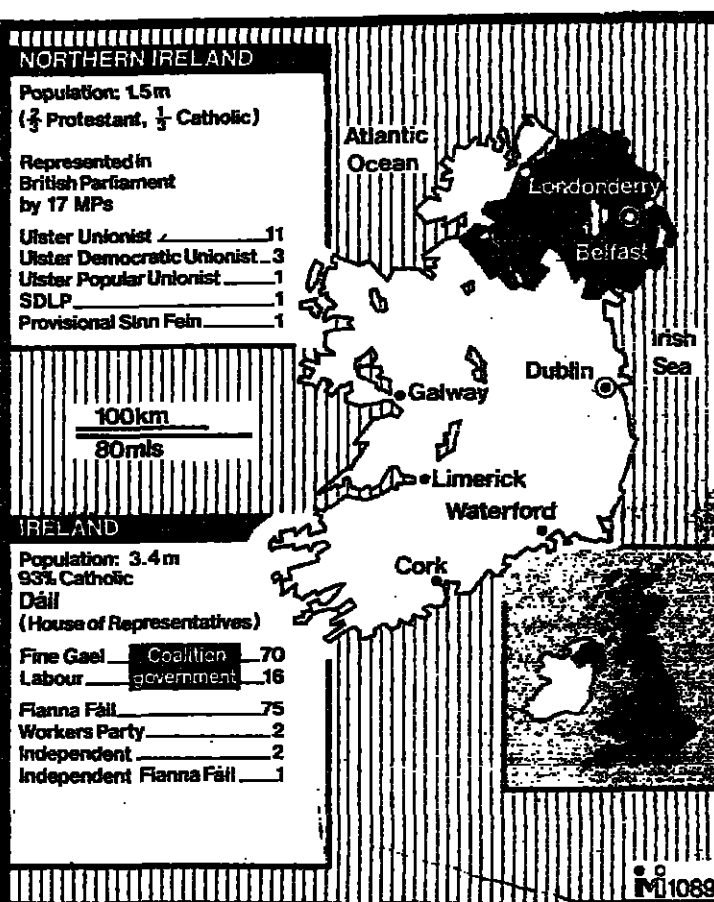
Good news

I HAVE "good news" for you. Residents of Amman have been living in "agony" for the past 27 months in anticipation of a "near end" to the prolonged process of constructing the two bridges at the Sports City intersection and the Ministry of Interior circle. For if the mathematical theory which goes: Two wrongs make one right — and I don't mean the right direction — could be applied here, then a recent decision for new diversions in these areas could be the best news according to the fore-mentioned theory.

We have heard that the concerned authorities plan to divert traffic in the areas immediately surrounding the hotels that will accommodate participants in the meetings of the council of foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

We sincerely hope for more of such regional and international conventions in Amman in order to have "counter diversions" that would lessen the effect of the "self-imposed" features of the capital, which resemble the tentacles of an octopus.

At least if one cannot expect full remedy to the problem one should opt for temporary tranquillisers.



Ireland and the legend of St. Patrick

EVERY year on March 17, the people of Ireland and all Irish ethnic groups throughout the world, celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland is credited for introducing Christianity in Ireland. At the age of 16 he was captured by Irish raiders and sold into bondage. After six years, he escaped and returned home to Ireland. He relates how in a vision he saw a man who came from Ireland with letters, and how he heard the voices of the Irish imploring him to return. St. Patrick's mission in Ireland spanned some thirty years in the latter half of the 5th century A.D. It was very successful. Tradition says that he died on the 17th March in 490 A.D., the day now celebrated as a National Festival by all Irish people throughout the world.

History

Ireland has been inhabited for about 9,000 years. The Iron Age began in Ireland in around 300 B.C. At the beginning of recorded history, the Irish were already speakers of Celtic language, with well-developed legal and social systems and a rich orally-transmitted culture. From the 8th to the 10th century, Viking raiders and settlers established urban and trading traditions in Ireland. Norman invaders from Britain captured large areas of Ireland in the 12th century but English power was not finally established throughout Ireland until after the battle of Kinsale in 1601, when the last major Gaelic leaders were defeated. Their lands in Ulster were confiscated and settled with Protestant English and Scottish colonists. Largely because of the religious differences, these did not assimilate with the native population as earlier settlers had done. From 1264 to 1782, the Irish Parliament was completely subordinated to the English Parliament. From 1800 to 1921, Ireland was governed by the English Parliament. During the 1840's, a devastating famine forced millions of Irish to emigrate, mainly to the United States, Canada and Australia. After the failure of attempts to achieve Home Rule by constitutional means, Volunteers and Citizen Army rose in arms in 1916. The rising failed but its supporters won a massive victory in the 1918 elections and those

elected founded the first Dail (House of Parliament) in January 1919. The Irish Free State was given full internal self-government and Northern Ireland was allowed to remain in the United Kingdom with its own regional parliament.

Since the declaration of Irish independence, Irish Governments concentrated on consolidating the economy, encouraging native industry and State investment. This process culminates in the adoption of the Constitution of Ireland in 1937 and the Republic of Ireland Act 1948, when Ireland left the British Commonwealth. Ireland became a member of the European Community in 1973.

Language

Irish and English are the official languages. Irish, a Celtic language related closely to Scottish Gaelic and Manx, was the language of the majority of the population until the first half of the 19th century. Despite efforts to encourage its use, it has lost ground steadily to English and is now spoken as an everyday language by about 55,000 people. The policy of the State has been to promote the use of Irish.

Northern Ireland

Following the division of Ireland, the British Government established in 1920 a Parliament in Northern Ireland. Until the late 1960's British Governments took little active interest in the affairs of Northern Ireland. The succeeding governments remained solidly in the hands of a party committed to keeping Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom. Nationalists were condemned to apparently permanent opposition and complained of discrimination in electoral franchise, housing and employment opportunities. Intermittent violence of varying intensity flared up in every decade since the 1920's. Some reforms were introduced in the late 1960's in response to a civil rights movement. However, the situation was violently attacked by Unionist extremists. This led to violence by extremist organisations on both sides which, by the end of 1967, had claimed over 2,400 lives.

MIDEAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Wounded Saudis flown home from Lagos

LAGOS (R) — Three Saudis who were shot and wounded by an unidentified gunman in Lagos last weekend have been flown home, hospital sources said Wednesday. "They left on Monday. All of them were able to walk to the ambulance," one source said. Information about the second attack involving Arabs in Lagos in the past seven weeks was scarce, with neither the Nigerian nor Saudi authorities officially confirming the incident. State radio and television had still not reported the shootings which happened early Sunday. The three men, who have not been named, were identified as Arabic teachers attached to the embassy but without diplomatic status. They were shot at close range in the car park of their hotel by a gunman described as bearded and light-skinned who used a pistol fitted with a silencer.

Senator reprimands aide who met Arafat

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) — U.S. Senator David Karnes said Tuesday that he had reprimanded a member of his staff who met with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. Baker Spring, a foreign policy assistant for the Nebraska Republican, met with Arafat in Baghdad during a trip to Iraq in January. Karnes said he was not aware of the meeting before it occurred. Details of the two-hour meeting became public earlier this month. Spring went to Iraq under the sponsorship of a private group, the National Council of U.S.-Arab Relations, and Karnes said he approved the eight-day trip because it "provided an opportunity for expanding trade with Iraq." However, the meeting with Arafat was not on the agenda, and Karnes said he would not have allowed Spring to go if it had been. Karnes said the meeting was arranged after the group already was in Iraq and that Spring had no opportunity to contact him.

Egyptian policeman jailed for killing

ASSIUT (AP) — A criminal court Tuesday sentenced a plainclothes policeman to seven years in jail at hard labour for the fatal shooting of a Muslim fundamentalist student two years ago. The sentence against Taha Abdullay Aly is subject to appeal before the court of cassation, Egypt's highest criminal tribunal. The shooting, which occurred March 31, 1986, touched off a protest sit-in by hundreds of fundamentalist students at Assiut University. The victim was Shaaban Abdul Rahman Rashid of the university's school of Commerce. Rashid was critically wounded in the head when Aly, accompanied by another policeman, fired his pistol to prevent Rashid and three others from posting notices advertising a religious discussion group at a mosque in Assiut.

New Zealand to increase Sinai force

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand said Wednesday it would contribute more men to the Multinational Force of Observers (MFO) in the Sinai. Defence Minister Bob Tizard and Foreign Minister Russell Marshall said in a joint statement that up to 11 more men would join the 14-member training team and headquarters staff already stationed in the area.

Shultz says his proposal is the only 'operative peace plan'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz told an audience of American high school students Tuesday that U.S. peace proposals could produce "some very substantial changes" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza if they are acted upon promptly and in good faith.

While no one has explicitly accepted the U.S. peace plan put forward by the secretary during his Middle East trip 10 days ago, Shultz pointed out that it has not been rejected out of hand either, because "what we have proposed is the only really operative proposal around."

The secretary outlined U.S. foreign policy objectives in brief opening remarks and then responded to questions from high school students in a videoconference televised by satellite.

Among the topics the students asked about were U.S.-Soviet relations, the situation in Panama, efforts to interdict the flow of illicit drugs into the United States and the problems facing a Middle East peace settlement.

"We think the basis is clearly there to make some very substantial changes on the West Bank and Gaza — the so-called occupied territories — and be able to do it promptly," Shultz said. "We think if the parties sat down and really negotiated in good faith, they could do that in a period of six months." Earlier in the day, Shultz conferred with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for more than three hours in two separate meetings. Much of their discussion focused on efforts to give new impetus to Middle East efforts. However, the secretary



The Palestinian uprising that began Dec. 9 was the catalyst for the U.S. administration to launch its new plan for Arab-Israeli peace. Here a Palestinian woman replenishes the stock of stone-throwing protesters against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

did not mention those talks in his response to students' questions, nor did he mention Shamir's stated opposition to an international conference.

In response to a further question, the secretary emphasized that Palestinians "must be represented in any kind of peace conference or any negotiation, and that is well recognized by everybody. Israel wants them to be represented. We do, and of course the Arab countries do."

It is necessary, though, to find Palestinians who are ready to

accept U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 as the basis for negotiations and Israel's right to exist, and who renounce "violence and terrorism," Shultz said. The secretary said the United States thinks the best way for Palestinians to join in negotiations is to be part of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Murphy: Comprehensive peace

Another Reagan administration official told a congressional panel Tuesday that the United States has set its sights on a comprehensive peace in the Middle East that would provide for the security of all states in the region and satisfy the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Richard Murphy, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, outlined U.S. policy objectives and the efforts to achieve them to the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East March 15.

The entire effort is based on Resolutions 242 and 338, Murphy said. Peace "would be achieved through negotiations between Israel and each of its neighbours...that is, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan."

He described the U.S. proposal as realistic and workable but warned against over-expectation. "No party will be able to achieve all of its desires," he said.

Crucial to the procedure, he noted, would be an international conference, open to all permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, China and France — and "parties to the conflict who accept Resolutions 242 and 338, and who renounce terrorism and violence."

Murphy sought to reassure concerned friends of Israel that an international conference would not "dictate" solutions to any side.

"We won't tolerate efforts — such as ones by the Soviets or the Syrians — to turn this into an authoritative, plenipotentiary forum," Murphy told the panel.

Gemayel accused of delaying release of French hostages

BEIRUT (AP) — A Lebanese newspaper Wednesday reported that the release of some of the four French hostages held in Lebanon had been delayed by President Amin Gemayel's alleged insistence on having a role in the matter.



Amin Gemayel
Longest-held captive

Gemayel's insistence on participating in any scenario leading to the release of French hostages held in Lebanon led to delaying the release of some of them after negotiations had achieved progress in this regard," Al Safir said.

The paper, owned by publisher Talal Salameh, did not disclose further details in the brief, unattributed report.

The report came one day after Gemayel called on foreign countries whose citizens are held in Lebanon, mainly by pro-Iranian Shi'ite factions, to "go get" the hostages "in one way or another."

Gemayel, whose government powers have been eroded by 13 years of civil strife, made the remark in an interview broadcast by the Paris-based France Inter radio Tuesday.

Kidnappers criticised

Another Beirut newspaper, Al Liwa, criticised the kidnappers of three American teachers and an Indian professor, and published letters to them from their wives.

Robert Polhill, 54, Alann Steen, 48, Jesse Turner, 49, and Mithileshwar Singh, 60, a native of India and legal resident alien of the United States, were kidnapped in west Beirut Jan. 24, 1987.

Gunmen disguised as Lebanese riot policemen grabbed the four from the campus of the American-affiliated Beirut University College, where they held teaching posts.

The abduction of the four teachers has been claimed by Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, an underground group believed made up of Shi'ite zealots loyal to Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"Is it possible that all kinds of atrocities and kidnappings be carried out in the name of Islam and nationalism against educators? Al Liwa asked.

"Is this the way we express gratitude to the teachers who were carrying out their duty and message...? Is this the way the Lebanese (citizen) treats his guests?" the paper added.

Ex-NSC staffer testifies before grand jury in probe over Meese

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former National Security Council (NSC) staff member appeared before a U.S. grand jury Tuesday in the criminal investigation of Attorney General Edwin Meese and a proposed \$1-billion Iraqi oil pipeline.

Roger Robinson worked closely with longtime Meese friend Robert Wallach in the summer of 1985, when proponents of the pipeline were seeking U.S. support for the project.

Robinson is the second NSC aide in two weeks to testify in the probe of Meese being conducted by independent prosecutor James McKay. Former NSC aide David Wigg testified earlier before the grand jury — a panel that decides whether a case should go to trial and, if so, which charges should be filed.

In addition, two former aides in Meese's office, John Richardson and John Harrison, testified last week before the grand jury. Richardson was Meese's chief of staff before leaving the Justice Department several months ago. Harrison worked on Meese's staff in mid-1985.

The probe of Meese, the country's top law enforcement official, revolves around whether he may have violated the 1977 foreign corrupt practices act, which prohibits bribes by U.S. companies or their agents to foreign officials.

Wallach wrote a memo to Meese in September 1985 saying that a portion of up to \$700 million from the pipeline would be paid to the Israeli Labour Party. Meese says he doesn't recall reading the portion of the memo relating to planned Labour Party payments.

Wallach had been hired by Swiss oilman Bruce Rappaport to assist in the project, and Wallach went to Meese on the matter in May 1985. Meese referred him to then-National Security adviser Robert McFarlane, who directed that Robinson assist the project.

Continued from page one

Anti-revolt curbs backfire

(Continued from page 1)

The investigation would lead to the expulsion of Awdi, who defied an expulsion order last November after his tourist visa expired.

A senior official of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the Gaza Strip told Reuters the authorities had cut vital local lines from refugee camps.

"For example, UNRWA health centres can't call ambulances," he said.

UNRWA officials protested to the Israelis about the moves, which broke links to their headquarters in Vienna.

The UNRWA official expressed concern that soldiers had beaten very young children in the Gaza area. He said three children under the age of 10 were in hospital for treatment of fractures.

Doctors at St. John's Hospital in Jerusalem removed an eye of a three-year-old girl, Rasha Yusuf Said Hoshiyeh, who was struck by a rubber bullet Monday.

"It (the eye) had been burst open," said British surgeon Timothy Rimmer, who performed the operation. He told Reuters it would take "exceptional force" to do such damage.

In an earlier operation, Rimmer used 25 stitches to repair cuts around Hoshiyeh's eyelid.

Hoshiyeh's mother told doctors and an Arab reporter that her daughter was standing on a veranda when a soldier fired at her.

The new Israeli measures did not stop protesters, who took to the streets in large numbers in Gaza and the West Bank, eyewitnesses said.

The Israeli army said one Palestinian died and six were wounded in protests in the area of Tulkarm, 65 kilometres northwest of Jerusalem.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) identified the victim as 60-year-old Salim Al Yehyeh and said he died after soldiers threw tear-gas into his home in a refugee camp at the outskirts of Tulkarm.

The PPS quoted Tulkarm hospital officials as saying that 20 wounded Palestinians had been admitted there.

Soldiers shot and wounded other demonstrators in the Gaza Strip refugee camps of Khan Yunis and Nuseirat, in Dheisheh camp near Bethlehem, and in Jelazoun camp and Al Jebb village near Ramallah, the PPS said.

The army clamped curfews on Jelazoun and parts of Rafah and Khan Yunis.

Palestinians predicted that new Israeli measures to hinder activities and control the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza would provoke further discontent and swell the ranks of the demonstrators.

Sharaa: Arabs oppose U.S. plan

(Continued from page 1)

West Bank and Gaza.

"The U.S. plan proposes an international conference next month to help promote two sets of talks: one on temporary Palestinian 'self-rule' in the West Bank and Gaza, and the other on a permanent Arab-Israeli peace settlement."

Sharaa, holding open the possibility that its terms might be improved to meet Arab demands, said:

"We hope that this American plan can be interpreted into a genuine, comprehensive and just solution and not mere manoeuvres and words."

He said Washington clearly was worried about the Palestinian uprising, but the United States and Israel might be trying to mislead world public opinion, by saying: "Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir rejects giving back an inch of occupied land but (Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres is ready to give back an inch or two."

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Gunmen hit IRA funeral

(Continued from page 1)

moved in to surround the cemetery and a dozen ambulances ferried the injured — including several young children hit by gunfire — to the nearby Royal Victoria hospital.

A hospital spokeswoman said one of the injured, a woman, was in serious condition and three men were also gravely wounded.

"It's obvious it was an attack by loyalist (Protestant) movements," Martin McGuinness, vice president of Sinn Fein, the outlawed IRA's legal political front, told reporters in the cemetery.

The explosions occurred about 15 metres away as the flag-draped coffins of Mairead Farrell, 31, Sean Savage, 24, and Daniel McCann, 30, were being lowered into a single grave. The unarmed trio were shot March 6 while on a bombing mission in Gibraltar.

Within hours, youths hijacked and set fire to a bus in the Ardoyne area.

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Arab expert sees higher oil prices in '90s

BAGHDAD (R) — A leading Arab oil expert predicted Wednesday that world oil prices would hover in the \$15 to \$20 a barrel range until 1990 and then climb sharply as OPEC tightened its grip on the world oil market.

Robert Mabro of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies forecast an upturn in demand for oil produced by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in the early 1990s, yielding their first real increase in vital oil revenues for a decade.

"With ups and downs, the price of oil will be maintained for a year or two, within the \$15-\$20 a barrel range which we saw in 1987," he told the third day of an Arab energy conference.

"In 1990-91 until the mid-1990s we shall see increases in the nominal dollar price," he said. But Mabro cautioned that OPEC must not spoil its chances by fixing prices too high or producing too much oil. Either could trigger a repeat of the 1986 oil price collapse, he said.

Oil prices have fallen around \$4 a barrel below OPEC's \$18 reference price since the start of the year in part because of high stocks from OPEC overproduction last year, Mabro said. Prices are now half 1985 levels.

The 13-nation group's share of world oil output shrank to 32 per cent in 1987 from 52 per cent in 1976 because of competition from

non-OPEC producers. Oil prices and revenues have suffered, plunging OPEC states into recession and forcing them to slash development spending and once-generous foreign aid.

Mabro said that in the face of declining market share, OPEC had gradually shifted from a policy of trying to control prices to one of controlling output.

This reflects the weight within OPEC of Gulf oil producers led by Saudi Arabia, which favour defence of output levels before prices.

Mabro urged OPEC to maintain such a policy, but frequently to adjust output quotas to reflect demand instead of the current practice of fixing them for six months at a time.

At its last meeting last December, OPEC set an output ceiling of 15.06 million barrels per day (b/d) excluding Iraq with the goal of holding oil prices at \$18 a barrel.

"We need an output-based policy with a price goal, but we must add to this an automatic way to adjust the quantity every month or two to ensure that the price goal is realised," he said.

Mabro saw demand for OPEC oil rising to 22.5 million barrels per day (b/d) in 1991 and 26.5-27.5 million b/d in 1995 from 20.1 million b/d in 1987, assuming only moderate price rises.

A more pessimistic scenario based on higher OPEC prices sees demand rising to 21.5 million b/d in 1991 and 21.5-24 million b/d in 1995.

Demand for Arab OPEC oil would hit 16.7-17.6 million b/d in 1995 from output of 12.1 million b/d in 1987 under the optimistic scenario, and 12.7-14.7 million b/d under the pessimistic one.

The former could lead to a 40-45 per cent rise in the foreign exchange earnings of Arab OPEC states in constant dollars between now and 1995, Mabro said.

Chalabi predicts sustained uncertainty in oil market

OPEC's Acting Secretary General Fadhil Chalabi Tuesday forecast a sustained period of price uncertainty in the world oil market if non-OPEC producers did not cooperate to curb oil production.

He told the conference that a drop of some \$4 a barrel in world oil prices since the beginning of the year had resulted from high non-OPEC output and low demand for OPEC oil.

"The present conditions will continue for a considerable time if non-OPEC supply does not decrease significantly and demand does not increase," he said.

Chalabi said OPEC now had to cut production if it wanted to preserve its \$18 a barrel reference price. This would mean sacrificing some of its market share to producers outside the 13-nation group.

"OPEC cannot defend oil prices and its market share at the same time. Either it must defend its market share and leave prices to supply and demand, or stabilise prices and leave output levels to forces of demand," he said.

The only other alternative was to press non-OPEC producers into cutting their production. "At this time what OPEC can do is to create incentives for non-OPEC members to cooperate to ensure the stability of prices," he said.

He predicted that if the market continued to weaken, non-OPEC producers would see it in their interest to cut production to help boost prices as they did in 1986.

"What is going on now will lead non-OPEC producers to realise that it is in their interest to reduce production to achieve not necessarily a fixed price but a range of between \$15 and \$18" he said.

Jordan, Iraq to cooperate in solar and wind energy

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Plans have been worked out by Jordan and Iraq for bilateral cooperation in solar and wind energy, according to Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Vice President Abdullah Jaradat.

Jaradat met here with Nidal Al Hamadani, director of the Iraqi Solar Research Centre and discussed with her bilateral cooperation between the two institutions.

He said that the project aims to enhance the two countries' capabilities to provide remote regions in Iraq and Jordan with power. A joint team, he said, will design and install solar power systems and wind power requirements in a number of remote regions in both countries.

He added that as an initial stage, the project entails building two such stations, one in Iraq and the other in Jordan.

Jordan explores means to export agricultural products to Finland

AMMAN (Petra) — Prospects of selling Jordan's agricultural products to Finland were discussed here by Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) Director Ghazi Abu Hassan and Jordan's honorary consul in Helsinki.

They reviewed in particular shipping Jordan's tomato juice and citrus fruit to Finland onboard planes that bring in Finnish tourists to Jordan.

A meeting will be held soon between JAMPCO and a number of Finnish importers who will be visiting Jordan within an official delegation.

A 20-member Finnish trade delegation is due here Saturday on a five-day visit to Jordan. Talks during the visit will cover means of bolstering bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Training course to examine financial controls in purchases

AMMAN (Petra) — A training course in financial control over purchases and stores is due to open in Amman Saturday. A total of 35 participants, representing all financial institutions in Arab countries will take part in the two-week course.

The course will examine modern techniques in implementing policies and contracts for purchases, linking requirements with budgets, and legal and financial control over such operations.

The participants will also review studies on inventory procedures, storage facilities and relations between purchases and store supplies. Delegates from Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, North Yemen, Sudan, Algeria, and Jordan will take part in the training course which will be opened by Audit Bureau President Hashem Dabbas.

Jordanian-Egyptian team ends talks on power grid linkage

AMMAN — Jordanian and Egyptian technical teams have concluded talks about linking the national grids of both countries under a project to be financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, with the help of a French technical team, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic newspaper.

The report said that full details of the project were worked out during meetings which lasted throughout last week in Amman between representatives of all concerned parties, including the electricity authorities in both countries.

The report quoted an official at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) as saying that final studies will be completed by the end of 1988 but documents of tenders will be prepared in early 1989. He noted the project, starting 1990, will take three years to be completed.

According to the official, the linkage will be through a submarine cable connecting the Aqaba Thermal Power Station and a point in Sinai and another at Suez in Egypt.

The linkage is necessary for helping the two sides to deal with emergency power shortages in either country and to benefit from low-cost power, generated in either one at any time.

The official said that the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development plans to finance another feasibility study which would link the national grids of Arab countries in the eastern part of the Arab World.

Jordan Electricity Authority to help in N. Yemen projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has decided to provide the North Yemen electricity corporation with a number of JEA engineers and energy specialists.

JEA has also decided to offer training to Yemeni personnel in Jordanian energy projects.

According to a JEA official, an agreement was reached by the two sides to form a joint technical committee for studying the implementation of specific energy projects in Yemen.

JEA will take part in a conference that will look into means to finance North Yemen's electricity projects.

The conference is due to be held in Sanaa in September, according to the official who said that JEA is to be considered as a possible candidate for carrying out engineering work for North Yemen's electricity projects estimated at \$10 - 20 million.

According to the JEA official, the two sides have agreed on coordinating their efforts in the production of electrical appliances.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8480/90	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2530/40	Canadian dollar
	1.6680/90	Deutschemarks
	1.8740/50	Dutch guilders
	1.3810/20	Swiss francs
	34.90/95	Belgian francs
	5.6780/6810	French francs
	1238/1239	Italian lire
	127.35/45	Japanese yen
	5.9370/9420	Norwegian crowns
	6.3490/3540	Danish crowns
	6.4010/60	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	446.30/446.80	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australian shares closed barely steady with buying by local institutions pulling up prices from early lows. The All Ordinaries was down one point to 1,357.9.

TOKYO — Share prices closed higher on optimism spurred by most special money trusts, or tokken, having closed their books for this fiscal year. The Nikkei index climbed 228.76 points or 0.90 per cent to 25,704.43.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed easier but off the day's lows after local demand emerged in the afternoon session. The Hang Seng index finished 23.88 points off at 2,555.04.

SINGAPORE — Shares rebounded in the afternoon to close mixed on late speculative buying interest and some bargain hunting in fairly quiet trade. The Straits Times industrial index rose 2.40 to 946.32.

BOMBAY — Share prices closed mixed on alternative bouts of speculative buying and selling. In trucks and cars, Telco shot up 18 rupees to 388 on rumours the government may soon clear the company's long-standing proposal to make Honda cars.

FRANKFURT — Shares rose strongly as favourable company news encouraged domestic investors to keep buying. The Commerzbank index, calculated at mid-session, rose 15.5 to 1,424.7.

ZURICH — Prices closed steady in moderately active trading, with advances more restrained ahead of Thursday's U.S. trade data. The All Share Swiss index was up 1.1 at 856.7.

PARIS — The market opened the main floor session 0.03 per cent down in listless trading, with buyers holding back because of pre-election political uncertainty.

LONDON — Prices at mid-session were above the day's lows as the market digested the implications of the budget. At 1311 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 8.9 at 1,831.0.

NEW YORK — Stocks showed little overall change while waiting for the trade deficit report. The Dow was around Tuesday's close of 2,035.

EC seeks to assist Third World struggling with reforms

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) is seeking new ways to help Third World countries burdened by belt-tightening schemes in efforts to reform their economies, EC Development Commissioner Lorenzo Natali said Tuesday.

Natali said the community must find a broader, quicker and more flexible strategy to help poor countries solve their most pressing problems and carry out tough economic reforms. "Any intervention we provide for must take account of the possible social repercussions, and above all the repercussions on the poorest classes," he told a news conference.

Many poor countries, choked by debt and hit by falling world prices for their raw material exports, are having severe problems carrying out tough "structural adjustment" programmes supervised by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Natali said applications from Haiti and the Dominican Republic to join the ACP group were still being considered, but said he was against "diluting" the Lome Convention by extending it to other countries with different economic problems.

Spain, one of the EC's newest members, has been keen to see the scheme opened up to Latin American countries. A special debt relief programme for black African countries, approved by EC ministers last year, could serve as a possible model for future development aid, he said.

The programme, worth around \$120 million, is aimed at giving sub-Saharan African countries the foreign currency they need to pay for vital imports.

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West Germany set to excuse Third

World from 2.5b Deutschmark debt

BONN (R) — West Germany is ready to excuse the poorest Third World countries about 2.5 billion marks (\$1.6 billion) of their debt to it, Overseas Development Minister Hans Klein said Wednesday.

Klein told reporters the government also planned to channel most future aid through outright grants instead of credits that must be paid back.

He said the cabinet agreed in principle on the debt relief plan but had yet to decide on precise amounts involved for the various nations, which would include Bangladesh and Haiti.

Bonn also will work for better credit terms for aid recipients, Klein said.

He gave no more details. West Germany has previously wiped out 4.2 billion marks (\$2.53 billion) in debt owed by Third World states.

Britain's new budget favours rich

LONDON (R) — Britain's Finance Minister Nigel Lawson promised the nation one of the world's simplest tax systems Tuesday in an annual budget which included tax cuts for the rich that the opposition denounced as a shame.

Lawson announced a two per cent cut in the basic income tax rate to 25 per cent and a reduction in the rate levied on all incomes over £20,000 (\$37,000) from 60 to 40 per cent.

That will reduce the current six-tier structure of personal taxation to a system with only two rates.

"This major reform will leave us with one of the simplest systems of income tax in the world," Lawson, the Conservative government's chancellor of the exchequer, told parliament amid unprecedented turmoil.

Twice during his budget speech proceedings were suspended as a Scottish National Party member of parliament yelled "it's obscene" and Labour Party legislators chanted "shame" in unison.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock, who criticised the rowdy scenes, attacked Lawson for offering nothing to the country's ailing, state-funded national health service.

"By comparison with his hand-outs to the richest in Britain (he) offered a puny, marginal, negligible amount to those who constitute the average people of our society," Kinnock said.

Speaking on television, Lawson defended the reduced top tax rate as an incentive to enterprise economy.

"We've seen what happens if you tax top managers and engineers too heavily — too many either opt for the quiet life or go abroad where tax rates are lower," he said.

The chancellor said he had eliminated government borrowing and presented the first balanced budget for almost 20 years. "This budget has achieved a major double — it is tax reforming on a large scale and a balanced budget, too."

The reductions will cost the government just under £4 billion (\$7.4 billion) in the next financial year which Lawson predicted would see further strong economic growth and low inflation.

Trade union leaders joined the opposition in its protests against what they described as a rich man's budget and it met with mixed response in The City, London's financial district.

"It was all rather unexciting," said analyst John Sheppard of Warburg Securities.

Some economists expressed disappointment at remaining uncertainties over exchange rate policy, subject of recent disagreement between Lawson and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Foreign exchange dealers said they had been looking for a clear sign on whether the pound would be allowed to continue to rise, as Thatcher has advocated, or whether Lawson's preference to keep it at an unofficial target level of around three Deutsche marks would prevail.

The Confederation of British Industry hailed the budget as helpful to maintain the momentum of Britain's economic recovery.

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Connors and Evert advance in \$2.1m tennis championships

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — Second seeded Chris Evert, playing nearly flawless tennis, beat Alycia Molton 6-0, 6-0 in just 47 minutes Tuesday to advance to the second round of the \$2.1 million International Players Championships.

Evert, 33, ranked third in the world, lost just five points on serve in the lopsided match against her American compatriot.

Evert joined third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, fourth-seeded Australian Hana Mandlikova and fifth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia in advancing in straight sets.

Third seeded Miroslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia struggled briefly before defeating American George Bezenecy 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Top-seeded Steffi Graf of West Germany plays her first round Thursday.

The biggest surprise of the day was Patricia Tarabini of Argentina upsetting 11th seeded Sandra Cecchini of Italy 6-2, 6-4. In a battle of groundstrokes, Tarabini, 57th in the world, used her heavy topspin to outlast Cecchini.

Evert, who lost to Sabatini in the semifinals of a tournament last week, said that her confidence level was high after beating Molton so easily.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Fighter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 17, 1988

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can gain considerably more support from others than you had anticipated, so don't be afraid to ask. If you begin to feel a bit confused today, just sit down and think out the problem logically.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Your intuition is working rather well today, so be sure to follow it. Continue with any plans you started and left on the back burner.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) An acquaintance will offer to give you some unsolicited help, so be sure this person is trustworthy. State your aims clearly and concisely.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If you need a big favor from a person in a position of power, just explain your reasons and you'll get it. Show your gratitude for the help.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A new acquaintance has the know-how you need to complete a difficult project, so don't hesitate to ask questions of this person.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Your husband about solving a problem will be right on-target, so follow them without reservation. It is important that you drive carefully.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Outline the basic premise of a new project with an associate. This will help the venture to run more smoothly when you get under way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) A co-worker can give you the information you need to improve your efficiency, so ask for some help. Pay more attention to your health.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) You will have a considerable amount of luck today, so don't be afraid to take any risks. Be more considerate of your mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Take the time to talk privately with each member of your family, and achieve a more comfortable environment at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Finish up any reports or statements which have been put off, but be sure they are accurate. Don't allow anyone to ruin your schedule.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Set up a new budget which is more realistic, and try to save some money for a rainy day. Use your energy wisely today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Stay around people who share your opinions today, or you could get into a big argument. Do something special for your mate.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will be impelled toward making some new beginnings today, but don't start anything at this time. Instead, carefully review all the available data, and make sure you are clear on all points.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A friend is too busy with his own affairs to be of help to you, but don't take this personally. Don't take any risks on the highway.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't try to push your opinions on anyone today, or you will end up in trouble. This is not the best time to begin any new projects.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A financially well-off friend can give you some financial support, but make sure of your facts before you ask this person for help.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Avoid any tense confrontations with officials today, or you'll get into big trouble. Be cheerful and optimistic at home tonight.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) A situation which you find unpleasant may have to be accepted for now, but only for a short time. Ask questions and clear up your confusion.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't do anything which could cause friction at home, thereby spoiling your family's harmony. Try to save more money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) If a co-worker is in a bad mood, be gentle and diplomatic to this person. Avoid any confrontations which could have unfortunate results.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) You have several ideas for becoming more successful, but they need further study before you can put them into operation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Even if you don't really agree, go along with your mate today and avoid any trouble. Be sure to drive carefully this evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You understand how to improve the conditions at home, but your family may not be willing to go along with your ideas at this time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Avoid an acquaintance who will only waste your time and money this evening. Instead, stay at home and catch up on your reading.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't rely so much on today to help you progress. Plan to make some repairs to your home which will improve its value.

NFL approve Cardinals' move to Arizona

PHOENIX, Arizona (AP) — The St. Louis Cardinals were given permission Tuesday to move to Arizona, marking the third transfer of a National Football League (NFL) team in the last six years but the first with the consent of the League's club owners.

The vote approving the transfer was 26-0, with two abstentions.

The move, for which the Cards will have to pay an undisclosed amount of indemnity to the League, came two months to the day after team owner William Bidwill announced his intention to move the Franchise, in part because he believed downtown St. Louis stadium was inadequate.

Bidwill, whose team drew an average of less than 30,000 last season to the 53,000-seat stadium, had been threatening to move for more than three years.

Because Bidwill had gone through all the steps required by the League, his fellow owners lined up behind him despite the last-minute efforts of a St. Louis group called civic progress, which outlined plans for a new stadium and other enticements.

Ironically, the Cardinals were the last NFL team to transfer with League approval when they moved from Chicago to St. Louis in 1959.

Rozelle said the Patriots potential sale would not be discussed at the sessions that will wind up Thursday or Friday, largely because the case is the Boston courts. The Sullivan family that owns the team is an estimated \$125 million in debt.

Rozelle said that while the matter will be watched closely, nothing will probably be done about the situation by the League this week.

"We don't want to do anything to interfere with their efforts to sell the team," Rozelle said. "But we continue to monitor the situation closely."

Monday's session was basically used for agenda setting.

In addition to tabling the Patriots' vote, the owners also defused another potential controversy by indicating their opposition to liberalizing the rules for drafting underclassmen.

Tex Schramm, president of the Dallas Cowboys, said he was willing to go to court to preserve the system used in the NFL, the only major professional sports league which doesn't draft underclassmen.

Instead, it allows only those players who have used four years of eligibility, have spent five years in school or have graduated to be drafted although it has made special exceptions in the past.

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Budd withdraws from British team

LONDON (R) — Zola Budd Wednesday withdrew from the British team to compete at the World Cross Country Championships, saying she was taking the action for the sake of her "country and teammates."

The South African-born runner's decision came after weeks of pressure from the New Zealand organizers and a threatened boycott by African countries of the March 26 event in Auckland because she allegedly competed in the republic last year.

Budd said in a statement: "I understand the BAAB (British Amateur Athletics Board) have put out a statement which suggests my inclusion in the team may well put the appearance of all the British athletes in Auckland in jeopardy."

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Cameroun meets Nigeria today in Africa Nations Cup

RABAT (R) — Nigeria's sharpshooting "Green Eagles" take on the "Indomitable Lions" of Cameroun in a mouthwatering encounter at the top of Group B in the Africa Nations Cup finals Thursday.

In the second match of the evening, defending champions Egypt plan to get their campaign to retain the trophy back on course with victory over underdogs Kenya.

A fourth minute goal by veteran striker Roger Milla gave Cameroun sweet revenge for defeat by Egypt in the final two years ago while Kenya looked like coming back from 3-0 down against Nigeria after half an hour in the group's opening games Monday.

Cameroun will be playing without their 21-year-old wonderboy Francois Omam Biyik of French club Laval who had to leave the field on a stretcher after the recurrence of a nagging leg injury.

He will not be fit in time, so once again the team will have to rely on the 36-year-old Milla to lead the attack. Milla is playing his last Africa Nations Cup after announcing he would quit the game next year.

Nigeria got off to a dream start against Kenya rifling home two goals in the first 12 minutes.

Disaster then struck the Harambee stars in the 33rd minute when a goalkeeping error presented Ndubuisi Okosieme with an easy goal to put the Eagles beyond reach.

The goal was first credited to Sam Okwaraji but it was later discovered he had swapped shirts with Okosieme.

In attack the Kenyans did enough to raise questions about the strength of the Nigerian defence. The Cameroun attack could provide the answers.

But Kenya's new Brazilian trainer Danilo Alves told reporters after the game: "I like the look of this Nigerian side."

And he warned that his side would be no pushover despite their poor start.

"On Monday, Egypt was favourite and they lost. So in the next match I think Kenya can beat Egypt," he said.

His remarks were supported by the Nigerian trainer Paul Hamilton. "I do not share the view that

Kenya is a very weak team," he said.

Kenya took Egypt to extra time in the Africa Games soccer final last year before going down 1-0.

After giving away the early goal by failing to clear a loose ball out of defence, the Pharaohs played well against Cameroun and should have equalised. But poor finishing let them down.

For the clash against Kenya they will be at full strength and will be hoping that this time the strike force of Emad Sulliman and Gamal Abdul Hamid can get it right.

Both players came close against Cameroun but the revelation of the Egyptian side was attacking full-back Ibrahim Hassan who was a constant headache for the Lion's defence.

"Egypt did enough to show that they should not be written off just yet. With a little bit more luck it could have been a very different result," said Michel de Bono, football writer with the Moroccan daily Al Maghrib.

Madjer mystery Meanwhile Algeria's star player Rabah Madjer has not arrived in Morocco for the Africa Nations Cup soccer finals and will probably miss his team's game Wednesday against the host nation.

Algeria's Soviet coach Evgeni Rogov told Reuters he had not yet received confirmation Madjer would play in the tournament.

Madjer, a professional with Spanish club Valencia, was expected to arrive here Monday, but his team mates said that by Tuesday evening they still had not seen him.

Algerian officials had said earlier in the week that their 28-year-old World Cup star would be available for the match against Morocco Wednesday and against Zaire Saturday.

One player who did arrive to bolster his team's chances was midfielder Abdelkader Ferhaoui of French club Montpellier, but he may have to return after one game and may miss the whole of the rest of the tournament.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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COUNT THE LADY

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 5 2
♥ Q 10 7
♦ A Q 8 4
♣ K 9 3

WEST
♠ A K 8 6 4 3
♥ A 5 2
♦ 7 6
♣ Q 5

EAST
♠ J 10
♥ 6 4
♦ J 10 5 3
♣ 8 7 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 7
♥ K J 9 8 3
♦ K 9 2
♣ A J 10

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ 1 S
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♣ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
Triskaidekaphobics don't shine at the bridge table — too much of the game revolves around the number 13. But once in a while you do well to forget about the number and concentrate on what has transpired in the bidding or play.

With a flat hand and only three-card support, North's holding was barely worth an invitational jump raise. Despite the fact his queen of spades was, at best, a doubtful asset, South advanced to game because the odds will tell you that finessing East for the queen of clubs was a 5-to-2 favorite. Declarer knew better — he could claim his contract! He led his last trump, discarding a club from the table. East was forced to hold a diamond, so he had to discard down to two clubs. Declarer led a club to the king and returned a club. When East followed with the eight, declarer knew his remaining card was a diamond. So he flew with the ace to drop the queen and land his contract.

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Gorbachev determined to find 'democratic solutions' to unrest

BELGRADE (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Wednesday the Kremlin is determined to find "democratic solutions" to the recent ethnic unrest in the Soviet Union, but stressed there could be no secession from the vast, ethnically diverse nation.

Speaking to Yugoslavia's parliament, Gorbachev said ethnic relations are "one of the most important and delicate issues" in the Soviet Union, and it would be unnatural to think they were "once and for all resolved."

There are both "certain difficulties inherited from the past" and other "problems created by the passage of time and the changes in the economic life of society," Gorbachev said.

He made no mention of the riots that killed at least 32 people in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait last month, nor of recent protests by Armenians demanding the re-

turn of a largely Armenian region put under the administration of their Azeri neighbours in 1923.

But he said that on ethnic problems, "We are determined to reach democratic solutions which would correspond to the interest of each and every nation..." and our entire socialist society."

Gorbachev indicated, however, that there could be no question of secession, saying that each region within Soviet borders has "indissoluble links" with the rest of the country.

Mediterranean Security
In his 40-minute speech, Gor-

bachev outlined new proposals for Mediterranean security, enlarging on previous suggestions for reducing the superpowers' naval presence by proposing the United States and the Soviet Union freeze the number of warships they have there on July 1.

The eventual aim would be a withdrawal of Soviet ships if the United States follows suit, Gorbachev said.

In addition, he said, the superpowers should give each other advance notice of all ship movements and naval manoeuvres in the Mediterranean, and invite observers to such exercises.

Gorbachev stressed that, for the Soviets, the Mediterranean "is no remote area" because it is the passage to and from the Black Sea ports of the southern Soviet Union.

"Naturally, we are interested in routes of peace and not those of war passing here," he said.

NATO block efforts

In a wide-ranging speech, the Soviet leader also attacked what he said were efforts by unidentified politicians in the NATO alliance to block total nuclear disarmament and to respond to the removal of medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe by building up conventional weapons.

"These contradictions, not to say absurdities, have quite definite political convictions behind them," Gorbachev said.

Such politicians want to discredit Moscow, he suggested.

"They keep harping on the lie of the Soviet Union's and Warsaw Pact's war image" when Moscow is working tirelessly on "weeding out for good the Cold War sprouts" in all spheres of East-West relations, Gorbachev said.

'Sharpeville Six' lawyers to make last-ditch challenge

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Lawyers make a last-ditch challenge Wednesday to death sentences on six black South Africans whose clemency pleas have gained the backing of world leaders, including President Reagan.

The "Sharpeville Six," five men and a woman, are due to hang Friday for being part of a township crowd that stabbed and burned a black councillor to death in 1984.

"We have evidence that at least one witness was coached by the police in what to say," said Prakash Dier, lawyer for the six, who were told last week they will be hanged Friday.

Reagan, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and West

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl have all responded to a direct appeal from the six for help, urging South African President P.W. Botha to commute their sentences on humanitarian grounds.

Diplomats in Cape Town said a West German envoy would present a last-minute appeal for clemency Wednesday on behalf of the European Community.

Dier, who represented the six in their trial and in an unsuccessful appeal, said lawyers would apply to the supreme court in Pretoria Wednesday for a stay of execution.

"We will argue that if one witness was coached in what to say, the same could apply to

others and that could have direct bearing on the case," he said.

"We will be asking as well for a witness who gave evidence behind closed doors, and who was identified only as Mr. X, to be recalled for cross-examination."

"We were not allowed to cross examine at the trial and we believe his testimony could directly affect the case of at least two of the six."

A government spokesman said Botha had rejected the last appeal for clemency for the six.

But Colin Eglin and Helen Suzman of the opposition Progressive Federal Party said Botha agreed to meet them Thursday to discuss the fate of the six.

COLUMN

Compulsory testing not the answer

HONG KONG (R) — The American scientist credited with the isolation of the AIDS virus said Wednesday he believes compulsory testing for the deadly disease only serves to drive possible carriers underground. "I have to listen to the advice of the people on the front line. I'm a laboratory scientist, not a doctor," said Robert Gallo, from the National Cancer Institute of the National Institute of Health in Washington, D.C. "What I hear is that such practice drives people underground; they won't cooperate as well. That in itself would make compulsory testing dangerous. And there is of course the business of individual rights."

Women umpires thwart 'God's plan'

KISSIMMEE, Florida (AP) — Houston Astros pitcher Bob Knepper said he doesn't think Pam Postema should be umpiring major league baseball games because that's not a woman's role in life. "This is an occupation women should not be in," Knepper said when asked about Postema's chances of becoming major league baseball's first female umpire. In God's society, woman was created in a role of submission to the husband. It's not that woman is inferior, but I don't believe women should be in a leadership role. I don't think a woman should be the president of the United States or a governor or mayor or police chief." Postema, a minor league umpire for 11 years, was behind the plate Monday when Knepper pitched five scoreless innings in a 5-0 exhibition victory over Pittsburgh. "It has nothing to do with her qualifications," he said. "She did a great job back there today, but I believe God has ordained that there are some things women should do and some things they should not do."

Unionist slams stripshow

LONDON (R) — A union meeting of construction workers in northwest England attracted five times the normal attendance when members heard it was going to finish with a show by two female strippers. But the meeting, in a nightclub at Distington, provoked criticism from a rival branch of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians Tuesday. "The trade union movement stands for equal opportunities yet here we have one branch using gutter tactics to attract people to meetings," Willy Whalen, secretary of the union's neighbouring Carlisle branch. He called the show "a disgraceful exploitation of women."

Women stay veiled

CAIRO (R) — Three women students have won a legal battle with the Egyptian government to enter campuses with their faces veiled. In what appeared to be an initial victory for Muslim fundamentalists, a court in Cairo threw out a government ban on students with concealed faces entering universities. The court said Tuesday students had the constitutional right to wear what they pleased.

Homosexuality justifies asylum

WEST BERLIN (R) — An Iranian homosexual can use his sexual orientation as a reason for seeking political asylum in West Germany, the federal administrative court ruled Tuesday. Its decision supported the rulings of two lower courts which rejected an appeal by immigration authorities who would not accept the unidentified Iranian's application for asylum. The federal court, the highest court of appeal, justified its ruling on the grounds that Iran punished homosexual activities with death. It said the West German authorities should not only bear in mind Geneva Convention guidelines on political persecution but must also recognise the relevance of other personal reasons.

Odd shoes get man excused

LOS ANGELES (R) — A man wearing different shoes was excused from jury duty Tuesday after a prosecutor said his footwear suggested he could be a non-conformist. The man, wearing in one gray and black shoe and one that was brown, showed up for jury selection in the case of a business executive accused of laundering drug money. But prosecutor Gordon Greenberg moved to have the man excused, saying a potential juror in mismatched shoes "could be a non-conformist who might not comply with the court's orders."

Carlucci, Yazov begin unprecedented talks

BERNE (R) — U.S. and Soviet defence leaders Frank Carlucci and Dmitry Yazov Wednesday began two days of unprecedented military talks aimed at further clearing the cloud of suspicion between the superpowers.

Soviet Defence Minister Yazov, 64, and his American counterpart, Carlucci, 57, sat down in a small second-floor room at the American embassy in neutral Switzerland's capital for discussions on military doctrine, arms control and other issues.

The morning talks were to be followed by a working lunch at the American ambassador's residence and an afternoon round at the Soviet embassy. They will wind up Thursday morning with a breakfast and final session at the Soviet embassy.

Never before have superpower defence ministers held formal discussions on military policies, potentially dangerous encounters such as a recent warship bumping incident in the Black Sea, and matters ranging from arms control to the planned Soviet pull-out from Afghanistan.

"We could do this all day," quipped Carlucci with a smile in a light start to the morning session as the two men shook hands a second time for photographers before journalists were ushered out of the American embassy.

Yazov, who does not speak English, did not comment.

There was no indication whether Carlucci immediately de-

Soviet side for the 1985 shooting of U.S. Army Major Arthur Nicholson by Soviet troops in East Germany.

Carlucci said earlier that he intended to seek a formal apology, which Moscow has never given, for the shooting of Nicholson, a member of the U.S. military inspection team stationed in East Germany.

Easing suspicion

Both Yazov and Carlucci said this week they hoped the meeting, prompted by warming relations between Moscow and Washington, would help ease suspicion by the superpowers of each other's military aims in an increasingly complex world.

"I can think of nothing more important to discuss here than our motives, our force structure and our doctrine," Carlucci said in a formal toast at a dinner given for the two men Tuesday night by the Swiss government.

But he also told reporters travelling with him to Berne earlier Tuesday that he saw no sign of a slackening in Soviet military output despite suggestions from Gorbachev that Moscow might turn to military "sufficiency."

"The tanks keep rolling out," Carlucci said in apparent reference to NATO charges that the Warsaw Pact has an advantage of better than two-to-one in tanks facing Western Europe. Moscow counters with the charge that the West has advantages in attack aircraft and in other areas.

Health workers join anti-Noriega protest

PANAMA CITY (R) — Hospital workers and police fought a six-hour pitched battle in growing anti-government unrest, as Panama and Washington were caught in a tense standoff over U.S. rejection of an expulsion order against a diplomat.

At least eight people were injured Tuesday when riot police used tear-gas, birdshot and water cannons to break up a demonstration by workers at a major government hospital, witnesses said.

The clash turned into a pitched battle lasting about six hours, as some workers donned alcohol-soaked surgical masks for protection against the tear-gas and fought back throwing rocks and improvised firebombs.

Tension between the United States and Panama continues to grow as the government faces a severe economic crisis brought on by U.S.-engineered sanctions to cut off its supply of U.S. dollars, Panama's legal currency.

The sanctions are aimed at ousting General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama's military chief and de facto ruler, under indictment on drug trafficking charges in the United States.

The government has been unable to meet its \$35.5 million public employee payroll, sparking angry protests among workers who have never before joined anti-Noriega protests.

The protesters at the state social security hospital, including doctors and nurses in white hospital uniforms, chanted: "We

want money, not bags of food," referring to government efforts to make partial payments with food.

Panama said Tuesday that Terrence Kneebone, head of public relations at the American embassy, had been declared "persona non grata" and given 48 hours to leave.

But Washington refused to accept the expulsion order, saying it came from an illegitimate government, nominally headed by former Education Minister Manuel Solis Palma.

The United States regards deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle, who is in hiding here after being ousted for trying to fire Noriega, as Panama's constitutional leader.

Kneebone, reached by telephone in his home here, declined to comment on his status other than to say "I'm still here."

But Panama's foreign ministry, which issued the expulsion order, was already reporting Kneebone was on his way out.

In a government radio broadcast Tuesday night, the ministry said Kneebone was leaving and had been ordered out because he took part in "activities forbidden because of his diplomatic status."

It did not specify the activities, but said Kneebone had "contradicted Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadía Arias in an uncouth and arrogant manner," and added: "The national government cannot tolerate this."

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Hungarians march for 'democracy'

BUDAPEST (R) — More than 10,000 people, chanting "democracy," have marched through Budapest in Communist Hungary's largest independent demonstration since the anti-Communist uprising of 1956. They paraded in the capital Tuesday, waving banners and applauding calls before parliament for reform and national independence. "It shows that the opposition is getting stronger," one seasoned Western observer told Reuters. Police detained at least seven leading dissidents in dawn raids to prevent them taking part in a now-traditional show of anti-government feeling on the anniversary of the date when poet Sandor Petöfi launched Hungary's 1848 rebellion against Austrian rule.

Indian troops smash rebel hideouts

COLOMBO (R) — At least 26 Tamil separatist guerrillas and two soldiers were killed as thousands of Indian troops stormed rebel hideouts in northern Sri Lanka, military sources said Wednesday. They said 5,000 soldiers swept through the jungle during the past four days smashing hideouts and training camps belonging to the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebel group. They said a training camp for women guerrillas was among the hide-outs raided by Indian troops in the Mankulam area and eight women were killed in the clash.

Anti-Gandhi strike claims 7

NEW DELHI (AP) — Scattered violence during an opposition-sponsored strike to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi claimed seven lives and left at least 200 people injured across India Tuesday, news reports said. The strike shut down shops, offices and traffic in six of India's 25 states but failed to draw widespread support over the rest of the country.

Monks show serious wounds

PEKING (R) — Tibetan monks who took part in anti-Chinese protests in Lhasa this month are being treated in hospitals for wounds inflicted by electric prods wielded by riot police, a witness said Wednesday. The witness, a Lhasa resident who spoke on condition he not be named, said he visited and talked to 13 young Buddhist monks in two hospitals this week. One had a broken arm and leg, others had cuts and bruises suffered from beatings and some had injuries inflicted by riot police wielding electric prods. None had gunshot wounds.

U.S. legislators propose Haiti sanctions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of Congress Tuesday proposed to impose a series of trade sanctions on Haiti unless it takes steps toward establishing what the U.S. lawmakers regard as a more democratically-elected government. The group introduced legislation to revoke Haiti's 7,500-tonne sugar quota, which enables the Caribbean nation to sell sugar at a U.S. price-support level more than three times the prevailing world price; suspend other trade preferences; and directs the United States to oppose loans to Haiti by international development banks. The bill also would formally continue in force the suspension of nearly \$59

million in U.S. aid for Haiti, would impose an embargo on any arms shipments from the United States, and would express concern about the growing use of Haiti as a transshipment point for drugs from South America.

Opposition renews vow to oust Ershad

DHAKA (R) — Opposition leaders in Bangladesh have renewed a pledge to topple President Hossain Muhammad Ershad, calling recent parliamentary elections a farce. "People did not participate in the farcical elections held at gunpoint, and so they will not allow the fake parliament to function," Begum Khaleda Zia, chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, said. "The opposition parties will fight unitedly until the government resigns and transfers power to a caretaker administration to hold new elections," she told a large rally Tuesday.

Armenian case 'different'

NEW YORK (R) — The primate of the Armenian Church of America Tuesday welcomed remarks by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as showing he realises that, despite unrest, Armenians want to live in harmony with the Soviet system. Archbishop Torkom Manogian said the Kremlin leader's comments in Belgrade Monday indicated he realised that the reunification of a predominantly Armenian district with the Soviet Armenian Republic differed from other ethnic disputes. "Mr. Gorbachev has indicated by his comments he recognises (that) the Armenian case is different from the other troubles they face," the top Armenian Church official, who returned from Armenia last week, said in an interview. "The others speak in the name of independence and separation from Soviet governments. Armenians never thought of revolt or rebellion against the central government," he said.

100 killed in avalanches, storms

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Avalanches, landslides and bad weather killed at least 76 people and closed a vital road link in the strategic north Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, a state official said Tuesday. State Revenue Minister Piyarelal Handoo told reporters here the 300-kilometre long Srinagar-Jammu Road, linking the state's summer and winter capitals, was closed by heavy snow and landslides, stranding at least 5,000 travellers in Jammu. He said the Indian Air Force would undertake to airlift the travellers to Srinagar. Handoo said at least 49 people were killed in avalanches and landslides in two remote Himalayan villages in the Ladakh region in the past two days. He said 12 others were killed last Friday in a southeastern Kashmir village, and three the day before in a northeastern village. Two other people froze to death along the closed Srinagar-Jammu road. The official Pakistani News Agency APP reported Monday that at least 24 people were killed in an avalanche that swept through a village in the Pakistani-controlled portion of the state.

Aquino murder intrigue escalates

MANILA (R) — A lieutenant was recorded on tape ordering his soldiers to shoot Benigno Aquino just before the Philippine opposition leader was assassinated in 1983, a Japanese sound expert testified Wednesday.

Matsumi Suzuki, who analysed video and audio tapes made by journalists at the time of the murder, identified Philippine Air Force Lieutenant Jesus Castro as the officer who shouted "Pusla" (shoot) moments before the fatal shot rang out.

Castro is among 34 soldiers and three civilians on trial in a Manila court for the murder of President Corazon Aquino's husband, who was shot on Aug. 21, 1983 as he returned from exile in the United States. The 37 deny the charges.

Castro headed the security team that escorted Aquino from his plane on its arrival at Manila Airport.

Suzuki, president of the Japan Acoustics Laboratory, gave testimony suggesting the military tried to cover up its role in the killing and confuse investigators by saying Aquino was killed with a .357 calibre Magnum revolver. He said the sound of gunshot on tape showed the weapon was a .45 calibre pistol.

None of the tapes made by journalists who were with Aquino showed the actual shooting but they captured sounds of gunfire, footsteps and the frantic voices of soldiers moments before Aquino was shot in the head.

Defence lawyers tried to stop Suzuki from testifying, saying no Philippine court had ever allowed evidence based on analysis of sounds caught on tape and that U.S. courts spurned similar testimony. The court threw out the objections.

Suzuki said he used a spectrograph and other equipment to analyse the sounds on tape and identify the voices by comparing them with voice recordings made by soldiers in an inquiry after the murder.

Suzuki's analysis of footsteps also showed Aquino was killed on the plane's stairway, where only soldiers were in a position to shoot him, and not on the tarmac, as the military insisted.

Also Wednesday, President Corazon Aquino said in Manila she was open to new talks proposed by a Muslim rebel group seeking recognition from the 44-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Suharto: Islam must back modernisation

JAKARTA (R) — President Suharto, drawing up a new cabinet to take Indonesia into the 1990s, urged Islamic leaders in the world's largest Muslim nation to throw their weight behind modernisation.

Islam should help build a development-conscious population, he said.

In his second major address on the theme, Suharto said in nationally-televised remarks from Jakarta's main mosque Tuesday night that education was the key to building a stronger, more developed nation.

Although Indonesia is the world's fifth most populous country, the 66-year-old president said a big population was no guarantee of success. It was quality that counted, not quantity, he declared in a speech marking Wednesday's observance of the ascension of the Prophet Muhammad.

Referring to Islam's holy book, he said: "The Koran itself has reminded that many small groups are superior to larger ones. This obviously means that quality is more decisive than quantity."

President Suharto was reelected last week for a fifth



President Suharto

five-year term which will keep him in power until 1993. He is now drawing up a new cabinet which is expected to be announced at the end of this week or the beginning of next.

A priority for the new government will be to spread modernisation and development more evenly throughout Indonesia's 13,000 islands. Although Indonesia, which is Asia's leading oil exporter, is developing rapidly, parts of the country remain underdeveloped.

Suharto said his objective was to hand down a better life to future generations, and this

aim at a legal immigration system in which 90 per cent of those granted visas are admitted because they have close family members living legally in America. Only 10 per cent of the immigration visas are granted to fill the needs of the labour market.

This has resulted in 85 per cent of U.S. immigrants coming from Asia and Latin America, short-changing Western Europeans. The legislation would maintain priority for applicants with close relatives here.

But it also would significantly expand available visas for a new category of "Independent" immigrants, those accepted because of their skills, education, and age.

U.S. Senate passes new immigration bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate passed immigration legislation Tuesday to expand opportunities for foreign professionals and skilled workers to enter the United States.

The bill went to the House of Representatives. Senators Edward Kennedy and Alan Simpson had led a bipartisan effort to guide the measure through the Senate.

The legislation would apply to those who try to obtain legal residency through normal U.S. government channels. Sixteen months ago, Congress ended a six-year debate by enacting legislation to curb massive illegal entries into the United States. Simpson and Kennedy took

aim at a legal immigration system in which 90 per cent of those granted visas are admitted because they have close family members living legally in America. Only 10 per cent of the immigration visas are granted to fill the needs of the labour market.

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